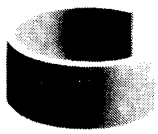

CINERGI®

JUDGE DREDD

draft by

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REVISED DRAFT
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FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN.

NARRATOR
In the third millennium, the world... changed.

1 MONTAGE (STOCK) 1

Vicious events, both natural and man-made. Earthquakes. Floods. Ice storms. War. Riots. Chaos and injustice.

NARRATOR(cont'd)
Climate. Nations. Borders. All were in violent upheaval.

2 CURSED EARTH RUINS - NIGHT 2

At a lectern of rubble, A WARLORD, preaches hate to his army.

NARRATOR(cont'd)
Out of the ruins, as ever, came despots and tyrants with their new doctrines of hate... and their new weapons of war.

Two WAR ROBOTS enter, flank the warlord. His soldiers CHEER.

3 CURSED EARTH - BATTLEFIELD 3

Vicious soldiers, along with an ABC battle robot, stand victorious over terrified refugees. The WARLORD seen earlier grins as the women captives are thrown at his feet.

NARRATOR(cont'd)
But there was one hope for humanity. One last bastion of law and order... of truth and justice. And when evil seemed about to cover the earth... they first appeared.

Suddenly out of the gloom appear THREE JUDGES. Their uniforms and weapons are primitive, but not their skill.

NARRATOR
In their fury they were terrible. In their anger, they were relentless. And in battle... they were unconquerable.

CONTINUED: 3

In just seconds the Judges completely wipe out the superior force. Two Judges die and the remaining Judge blows away the robot. It falls with a CRASH.

4 NEW ANGLE 4

A woman and child run to the Judge. He takes them into his arms.

NARRATOR
And in peace... they were the architects of a new society. Some called them Avengers. Others called them Saviors. But most called them... Judges.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. WASTELAND - DAWN 5

SHOT STARTS on a weather-beaten STATUE of the above: A Judge, a woman, a child - and a DEFEATED WAR ROBOT underneath the Judge's foot. SHOT WIDENS.

It looks like the beginning of time... or its end. Nothing grows here. Nothing could. This is the edge of the CURSED EARTH. With a WHIRR, a SHUTTLE appears in the sky. We PAN it to a GIANT CITY WALL. A LOCK-LIKE GATE chugs open. The shuttle ENTERS.

6 INT. CITY LOCK - DAY 6

As the massive craft settles, it is sprayed down by HI-POWERED JETS. Brown dirt drips away to show eroding metal and the LOGO: "MEGA-CITY JUDGE SYSTEM - ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE #3."

P.A.
Aspen Prison shuttle docked. Prepare to disembark.

With a WHOOSH, the shuttle's air lock port OPENS. A line of drably dressed men and women come out; each carrying a few possessions.

P.A. SYSTEM
ATTENTION, PAROLEES. ATTENTION PAROLEES. HAVE YOUR UNI CARDS READY FOR SCAN.

7 THE CITY LOCK - INNER GATE TO CITY - DAY 7

One by one the parolees return to society. We follow the last: HERMAN FERGUSON ("FERGIE").

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 7

Fergie's a genius - a genius without common sense, street smarts, or muscle tone. So his career as a master criminal has gone absolutely nowhere.

GATE GUARD
(scanning him)
Ferguson, Herman. Six month sentence Aspen Prison served. Welcome back, Citizen. Your living assignment is , Block Y, "Heavenly Haven." Stay out of trouble or your ass will be right back in Aspen.

Fergie hurries through the gate. We follow him - as he stops in his tracks. He's looking at

8 A MAGNIFICENT CITY 8

Giant towers reach miles into the sky. Elevated skyways are filled with traffic. Flying Barges and Shuttles service the highest levels. Dominating all is a building shaped like an EAGLE: The Hall of Justice. Title card:

MEGA-CITY ONE: 2539

FERGIE
(to himself, checking his papers)
Heavenly Haven. Sounds nice.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - DAY 9

And it is nice - a perfect Utopian future of happy families strolling through a green urban park. CAMERA WIDENS... and we realize that the scene is a "video poster" on a bleak and rubble-filled EMPTY LOT.

VIDEO POSTER
(taped V.O.)
--oming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air and recreation to your lives. Another design for better living from the Mega-City Council. Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Pocket Park. Bringing fresh air...

Surrounding the lot on all four sides are GIANT TENEMENTS blocking the sky. Yes, Virginia: There are slums in the future... and this is the worst one. Weary, hungry and dirty RESIDENTS ("Rezzies") scurry by on errands both legal and not.

NEW ANGLE - THE EMPTY LOT 10

A MUNICIPAL VEHICLE pulls up. A bored CITY TECH gets out, goes to the Video Poster Standee and turns it OFF in mid-spiel.

The sudden silence attracts some attention. The TECH drops in a NEW VIDEO CART which begins to PLAY as he drives away. Rezzies gather around to watch the new video.

11 CLOSER - VIDEO POSTER 11

Showing a monolithic BUILDING on the empty lot.

VIDEO POSTER V.O.
Coming soon, the Heavenly Haven Law Enforcement Barracks, bringing surveillance and security to your lives. Another design for safer living from the Mega City Council.

12 REVERSE ANGLE 12

As this sinks in on the tenement residents.

FIRST RESIDENT
Our Park! They stole our park!

SECOND RESIDENT
Lying bastards!

FIRST RESIDENT
Lying Judges!

A BRICK gets tossed into the VIDEO SCREEN. As it SPARKS, the residents swarm, knocking it over - then the chain link fence around the lot starts to shake, heave and collapse -

13 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK TOWER - UPPER FLOOR - DAY 13

WIDEN from a sign on the door: THIS LEVEL CONDEMNED. Nonetheless a group of SQUATTERS is living here. Several GIGGLE, ingesting some future narcotic through tubes they stuff in their noses. Suddenly, SHOUTS and BREAKING GLASS rouse them from their stupor.

ZED, the meanest looking squatter, goes to the window, curious.

ZED
Hey, Homies. The rezzies are going mental.
(giggling)
Let's give 'em a hand.

2ND SQUATTER(REGGIE)
What are the rezzies crazed for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 13

ZED
Who cares?

With a sick grin he reaches over and grabs an ASSAULT RIFLE. He sticks it out the window, FIRES.

14 EXT. STREET BELOW 14

His bullets SHATTER the windows of the building above the rioting residents heads. Some of them DUCK and SCREAM.

15 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWER - DAY 15

ZED
(shouting)
BLOCK WAR! YEE-HAH!

And as his buddies grab weapons and join in the "fun", we

CUT TO:

16 MEGA-CITY TAXI SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT 16

It moves through the urban maze, 1000 feet above the ground. Other craft drift past us, floating between buildings like metal clouds. The upper levels of the city are graced with huge terraces and hanging gardens. Names are emblazoned on them - Elysian Heights, Pharaoh's Tower, Castles of Navarre -names evolved from centuries of real estate hyperbole.

17 INT. TAXI SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT 28 17

Fergie sees a terrace pool where a number of girls are frolicking. He waves and speaks to the SHUTTLE COMPUTER.

FERGIE
Right down there... I think that's Heavenly Haven.

No such luck.

18 THE TAXI SHUTTLE 18

As it descends, the structures it passes grow progressively older. Filth and grime cover everything. The shuttle lands with a WHOOSH on a roof courtyard.

19 FERGIE 19

The minute he gets out the shuttle lifts off. Fergie looks around, sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 19

FERGIE
Still better than prison.

BRAT-TAT-TAT! Suddenly GUNFIRE erupts all around him. He looks in astonishment at

20 SEVERAL WINDOWS - HIS P.O.V. 20

As more and more frustrated residents OPEN FIRE at anything and everything.

VOICES
BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR! BLOCK WAR!

Fergie runs into the building.

21 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWER - DAY 21

People run in panic as bullets shatter windows. A BATTERED ROBOT FOOD CART cruises the hallway, oblivious to the people darting around it.

ROBOT FOOD CART
(a recording)
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat..!

Fergie darts around the robot. He SEES a small MAINTENANCE HATCH and jumps inside. His long HOWL tells us he didn't expect the long fall that results.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN BLOCK - STREET LEVEL 22

A resident breaks for cover, tries to run across the street. BHUDDA-BHUDDA-BHUDDA. He's cut down midway.

23 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN TOWERS - THE SQUATTERS 23

ZED
Did you see that! What a fucking shot! What a fucking shot - !

Reggie hi-fives him. Then an overhead THUD makes them look up at the HEATING VENT. Zed reaches up - yanks off the grate -

24 NEW ANGLE 24

Fergie tumbles into the room. Zed puts one foot on him, points his gun right between his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 24

ZED
What do we have here? You a Judge, little man?

The others laugh at the concept.

FERGIE
Me, a Judge, no, no -

REGGIE
We don't like outsiders here.

FERGIE
I'm no outsider -
(showing papers)
I live here, I mean, I'm gonna live here - if - if I live -

3RD SQUATTER (TWIST)
If you're a rezzie, then why are you hiding? This is a block war, man!

They grab him, playing roughly with him.

ZED
You gonna stand up for your block, ain't ya?

FERGIE
Look, I'm on parole - If I get into any trouble my ass is right back in Aspen -

CLICK. Zed's gun is in his face.

FERGIE(cont'd)
(quickly, cheerleading)
Let's go, Haven, Let's go Haven, Haven all the way -

BANANA CLIPS are shoved into his hands along with boxes of cartridges.

REGGIE
Reload, dipshit.

BULLETS rip through the windows here. Fergie ducks, terrified... drops the bullets.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET LEVEL - DAY - CLOSE ON TWO FIGURES 25

wearing armored uniforms, riding armored motorcycles called Lawmasters. Both riders wear HELMETS that conceal most of their faces. But we can see that the leader is a woman. Her badge reads "Hershey". Suddenly BULLETS ping around her. Several ricochet off the armored bike.

HERSHEY
Take cover!

26 WIDER 26

As bullets seek them out, both riders dive off their bikes and roll into combat positions behind a low wall. Hershey's partner BRISCO is young and eager... too eager.

BRISCO
(behind barricade)
Just like an Academy Simulation, right down to the crossfire.
(rising)
I'll lead off, you follow.

HERSHEY
(yanking him back)
This isn't a Sim, Rookie! Stand down and wait for back up!
(into helmet mike)
In position outside Heavenly Haven. Pinned down by fire from upper floors.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. VIEW OVER MEGA - DAY 27

A figure close to CAMERA straddles an even bigger LAWMASTER CYCLE that makes a Harley look like a mo-ped. The rider's GLOVED HAND activates the Lawmaster's CITY MAP.

HERSHEY(V.O.)
Fire is coming from Level Y, repeat Y. Request back-up, nearest Judge!

The map BEEPS, shows a route. The hand moves to the THROTTLE.

28 LAWMASTER - WIDER 28

It ROARS away from the CAMERA, burning rubber.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - BLOCK WAR - DAY 29

Hershey and Brisco are pinned down under a barrage of fire. Smoke fills the street, the sounds of automatic weapons fire, exploding glass, and screams, fill the air. Hershey tries to get a shot off - a bullet CRACKS her face plate -

CUT TO:

30 THAT ONCOMING LAWMASTER 30

Whips around a corner - dodges a burned out vehicle. The mighty bike VAULTS the barricades and lands. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL sails in front of it, EXPLODES. The rider does a WHEELIE!

31 UP ANGLE 31

The bike parts the flames like a curtain, SMASHES DOWN right in the middle of all the chaos. The Rider gets off.

32 HERSHEY AND BRISCO 32

huddle behind their bikes at the perimeter. They react to a figure emerging from the smoke.

BRISCO
That's our back-up? He's a sitting duck out there. You'd think he wants them to see him.

Hershey smiles ruefully.

HERSHEY
If that's who I think it is... he does.

33 THE FIGURE 33

Steps out of the flames. Six feet of armored justice, he was raised in a State Orphanage that taught him Duty and Honor. Now, he serves that State as Judge... Jury... and Executioner. His BADGE fills the frame: "DREDD".

CUT TO:

34 INT. SQUATTER'S LEVEL - DAY 34

Twist stares down, scared.

TWIST
Fuck. That's Judge Dredd. We gotta surrender while we can--

He starts to raise his gun over his head. Zed smacks him in the jaw with his own weapon.

(CONTINUED)

a bit boring - maybe they don't know it's Dredd, just scared of a Judge

e.g. (Tombstone

CONTINUED: 34

ZED
You chickenshit bowab! He's gonna surrender to us. And then we'll blow his brains out.
(shouting)
Come and get us, Dredd!

Zed FIRES out the window. Reggie happily joins, then the others. Finally Twist shrugs, FIRES too.

REGGIE
More ammo!

A terrified Fergie hands him a clip.

35 EXT. THE STREET - DAY 35

The stream of GUNFIRE chews up the pavement at Dredd's feet.

HERSHEY
Down! You crazy futz - !

36 DREDD 36

strides calmly over to them.

DREDD
He's firing a 64 laze pumper from six hundred feet. He couldn't hit me if I painted a bull's eye on my ass.
(glancing up)
We'll keep it simple. Standard relay. Single file. I'm point.

Hershey nods. Brisco, eager to prove himself, steps in front of Dredd at the Heavenly Block entrance.

DREDD(cont'd)
You - last.

Dredd pushes Brisco behind Hershey. Turns toward Heavenly as he draws his massive LAWGIVER HANDGUN. Dredd speaks into the tiny computer in the breech as he aims at the door.

DREDD(cont'd)
Grenade.

KABOOM! The round knocks the steel door off its hinges. Dredd kicks it aside and the Judges enter.

CUT TO:

INT. HEAVENLY TOWERS - WITH THE SQUATTERS - DAY 37

Fergie, terrified, passes loaded ammo clips to his "friends". The WHIRR of a motor outside the hallway attracts his attention.

38 HIS POV - THE FOOD ROBOT - ON ITS ROUNDS 38

FOOD ROBOT
Delicious and healthful ration packs, piping hot and ready to eat..!

39 FERGIE 39

Looks at his crazed "friends" and then backs up to the robot...

CUT TO:

40 INT. BLOCK "Y" CORRIDOR - DAY 40

Dredd, Hershey, and Brisco stride forward. Behind them, other Judges pass arrested perps down the length of the hall. The relay in action.

41 AT THE NEXT CORNER 41

Dredd glances around to the other side. A few Heavenly Blockers are fleeing the far end. Locked apartment doors line the hall. Dredd signals Hershey and Brisco, then steps into the corridor. Hershey leans around it, Lawgiver raised. Brisco starts to move past her, eager to get into the action. He glances down the hall. Suddenly bolts ahead of them.

BRISCO
(racing forward)
I'll take this one!

HERSHEY
No!

Dredd moves to stop him but he's too far away. Brisco kicks the door open -

42 IN THE SQUATTER'S ROOM 42

He's face to face with Reggie, Zed, and Twist.

BRISCO
This room is under--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA! Brisco is blown backwards off his feet.

43 DREDD 43

spins around. Sees Brisco dead in the hall. Snarls, enraged. Hershey whirls to keep the first room covered.

IN THE ROOM 44

TWIST
(suddenly noticing)
Hey. Where's the little ammo dude?

As they all look for Fergie, the wall next to the door EXPLODES OPEN. Dredd enters through it.

DREDD
You're all under arrest. Will you surrender, or would you like your trials now?

They look at him for a moment - then BLAST away.

45 DREDD 45

Dives for cover, FIRES back - but one guy has a weapon as big as a chainsaw, and it's decimating Dredd's hiding place.

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Boomerang!

BEEP and LED change on the weapon. Dredd FIRES -

WIDER 46

The tracer bullet goes past the guy then MAKES A U-turn and hits him in the back! He drops!

47 BACK TO SCENE 47

Dredd turns, sees Reggie and another squatter charging at him from both sides.

DREDD
(into Lawgiver)
Double Whammy!

Ricochet Ability Comes. Change name of bullet.

BEEP. He FIRES. Two tracer bullets come out at once, each taking out a man! But Reggie's body rolls into Dredd, knocking him off his feet!

8 CLOSE ON DREDD 48

He's lost his Lawgiver! He reaches out for it - and gets kicked in the head! CAMERA ADJUSTS to show Twist, suddenly courageous with Dredd on the floor.

TWIST
(seeing it)
Lawgiver! Awesome!

And he snatches it up, and aims at Dredd's head!

WIDER 49

ZED
(shouting)
Don't touch it! They're booby trapped - !

Too late. A high pitched BEEP is the only warning before the handgun EXPLODES, knocking Zed off his feet.

50 NEW ANGLE 50

Zed starts to get up - sees Twist's ARM on his body! Screaming, he flings it aside and jumps up - right into Dredd's KICK.

DREDD
Mega-City Municipal Code 334.8. Willful destruction of property. That's two years.

WHAM. He hits Zed in the face. Zed rocks, but stays up. He tries to grab a nearby weapon, but Dredd kicks it away.

DREDD(cont'd)
Code 11-5C. Illegal possession of assault weapons. Five years.

Zed blocks Dredd's next blow - pulls him into a brutal embrace, slams Dredd against the wall. Again!

DREDD(cont'd)
Code 7034-A. Resisting arrest.

Dredd breaks free! Slams Zed once, twice. Zed hangs onto Dredd and they both CRASH through a balcony window.

DREDD(cont'd)
Twenty years.

51 ON THE BALCONY 51

Dredd takes out cuffs, and dangles Zed over the twisted, broken railing. Below, the streets of Mega-City are a dizzy distance.

But as Dredd goes to cuff him, Zed pulls a knife from his boot, slashes Dredd's chest! Dredd elbows Zed in the face. The knife falls, twinkling.

DREDD(cont'd)
9804. Assault on a Judge with deadly intent.

ZED
(tough, scornful)
Don't tell me. Life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 51

DREDD
No... Death.

And - he lets Zed go!

52 HIGH ANGLE 52

Zed falls and falls and falls. In the end he's too small to see. Pause. Far below TRAFFIC swerves around the invisible body.

53 DREDD - UP ANGLE 53

DREDD(cont'd)
Court is adjourned.

CUT TO:

54 INT. HEAVENLY HAVEN CORRIDOR - DAY 54

Other Judges and paramedics have arrived. The Judges process arrestees and the paramedics see to the wounded.

Hershey looks on beside Dredd as Brisco's body is zipped into a bag and carried away.

HERSHEY
I was supposed to watch out for him.

DREDD
He made the mistake. Not you.

Dredd cocks his head, listening. Somehow in the din and confusion he has heard something. He turns.

55 NEW ANGLE 55

The food robot is coming down the corridor, skittering around bodies and debris.

Its actions are less smooth than before, and its voice seems off, too.

FOOD ROBOT
Umm, umm, yumm! Healthful and nutritious food rations, ready to eat!

Dredd suddenly pushes forward in the crowd. Hershey follows. She watches, puzzled, as he steps in the automaton's path, takes an assault rifle from another Judge and AIMS it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 55

DREDD
(to robot)
Halt! You have ten seconds to surrender. Ten. Nine.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
Dredd, It's just a servo-droid -

DREDD
(aside to Hershey)
The guide wire in the floor isn't working.
(to the robot)
Five! Four!

FOOD ROBOT
Ah, just put your credit in your selection and - credit in the slot and-and - shit!

The robot stops. The jumble of food in back spills out and Fergie uncoils from the cramped interior, still holding the sparking wires he was using to manipulate the machine.

DREDD
Mega-City Municipal Code 1286.4: Willful sabotage of a public servo-droid. That's six months, citizen.

He grabs Fergie, pushes him against the wall.

DREDD(cont'd)
(taking it)
Let's see your Unicard.

FERGIE
Come on, give me a break, Judge uh-
(seeing nametag)
D-dredd?

By now Dredd has run his scanner over Fergie's chip and Fergie's dossier is zipping by.

DREDD
FERGUSON, Herman. Forget six months: You've hacked into city droids, computers...
(reading, interested)
Cash machines, robot taxis...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 55

DREDD (Cont'd)
And you haven't even been out of jail for twenty four hours.
(to Hershey)
He's a three time loser, Hershey. Automatic five year sentence.

FERGIE
Five years? But - I - I had no choice, Judge - !

He sees Dredd's impassive face, turns to Hershey's more sympathetic one.

FERGIE(cont'd)
They were killing each other up there, I had to get out! I only hacked the droid to save my life! It was the only way!

DREDD
Not at all. You could have climbed out a window, worked your way down. Or found a turboshaft and shimmied down the cable.

FERGIE
Sixty stories? It woulda been suicide!

DREDD
Maybe. But it would have been legal. I sentence you to five years in Aspen Penitentiary. Case closed. Take him away.

Still protesting, Fergie is hauled away. Hershey looks at Dredd.

HERSHEY
He might have been telling the truth. Haven't you ever heard of extenuating circumstances?

DREDD
Yes. And cowardice isn't one of them.

CUT TO:

INT. JUDGE GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 56

TIGHT on a wide-screen MONITOR. VARDIS HAMMOND, a Vidcaster who makes HARD COPY look like 60 MINUTES, is standing in front of Heavenly Haven Block while workers put things back in order.

HAMMOND(on monitor)
--fifty three people hospitalized!
(anguish)
Five of them... children.
(indignation)
Nine dead... four of them, supposedly killed by a gang of squatters... who were killed themselves by Judge Dredd - thus eliminating any possibility of us ever knowing the truth.

CAMERA WIDENS. We see COUNCIL JUDGE GRIFFIN watching this along with Dredd. Griffin, in his early 60's, is a rock-hard veteran of the Judge system. He was there when it began. And he doesn't plan on leaving. Outside the glass windows, Mega-City gleams. The odd shape of the windows makes us realize that this office is in the "head" of the Justice Tower's eagle.

HAMMOND(cont'd)
So once again it's all tied up in a neat - and bloody - package. A package that should be sent special delivery to the desk of the Urban Administrator responsible... Council Judge Griffin. And tomorrow night -I'll deliver that package... right here.

Griffin clicks off the monitor.

DREDD
A rookie Judge died there, too. I guess he wasn't worth mentioning.

GRIFFIN
(wryly)
No, that might confuse the viewers. We can't be victims, Dredd... we're the villains!
(anguished)
Don't they understand we need law and order? Housing can wait... safe streets can't!

DREDD
Things will get better, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 56

GRIFFIN
I pray you're right, Dredd.
Dismissed.

CUT TO:

57 JUDGE'S COMPLEX - FOYER 57

Puzzled, Dredd comes out of Griffin's office. As he crosses the foyer and its wall of Honor, filled with Judge's names, Dredd sees CHIEF JUSTICE FARGO approaching him.

FARGO
I heard about the block war, Dredd.

DREDD
Just routine, Justice Fargo.

FARGO
What passes for routine these days is a disgrace.

DREDD
These are difficult times, Chief Justice. They call for tough decisions.

FARGO
No, Dredd. Difficult times call for new ideas. All Griffin knows is force. And all his sanctimonious platitudes can't hide it.

DREDD
With all due respect, sir, how can you say that when you spend most of your time -

Dredd breaks off; he's said too much. But Fargo won't let him off the hook.

FARGO
Most of my time where?

DREDD
At the Academy... Sir.

FARGO
Don't you mean at the Academy wiping Cadet's Asses? That is what they say in the locker room, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 57

DREDD
It... doesn't matter what they say, Sir. You're the Chief Justice of Mega City. If it weren't for you and the others like you, we wouldn't have our justice system. There isn't a Judge in Mega-City who doesn't want to follow in your footsteps.

FARGO
I'm glad you feel that way, Dredd. Because starting tomorrow you're going to spend one day a week at the Academy... teaching.

Dredd takes this in his stride.

DREDD
I'd be honored. Unarmed combat, or marksmanship?

FARGO
(exiting, with a grin)
Ethics.

And as Dredd reacts, we

CUT TO:

58 EXT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - DAY 58

An ominous mountain fortress. GUARD TOWERS on every corner. WIND rattles the concertina wire on the walls. If the Cursed Earth is hell, this is hell's prison.

59 INT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - WARDENS OFFICE - DAY 59

Stark, spare on creature comforts. WARDEN JUDGE MILLER paces. From time to time he looks at a small PACKAGE on his desk.

60 PACKAGE - CLOSE 60

A small SEALED BOX with a THUMBCODE LOCK.

61 BACK TO SCENE 61

Miller looks at it, frustrated. Finally makes his decision. He picks it up, leaves the room.

CUT TO:

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING 62

Miller and two GUARDS stride through the old part of the complex. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR with a computer access screen. Miller puts his thumb in the lock.

MILLER
Miller. Warden.

COMPUTER VOICE
Voice sample and thumbscan recognized.

The DOOR OPENS. Miller turns to the guards.

MILLER(cont'd)
Wait here.

CUT TO

63 INT. RICO'S CELL - DAY 63

Miller steps inside. AUTOGUNS swivel toward him. "Read" his BADGE. BEEP. The autoguns swing away. The door CLOSES.

RICO'S VOICE
Hello, Warden.

64 REVERSE ANGLE 64

We're in a large circular room. In the center is an isolated PLATFORM. A curtain of BLUE LIGHT surrounds it. Behind this, a FIGURE draws a bead of sweat from his forehead... absently flicks it at the energy curtain. It SIZZLES. The figure moves CLOSER. This is RICO.

RICO(cont'd)
Have you come for another...chat?

MILLER
A short one, I'm afraid. Duty calls.

RICO
(laughs)
We're both prisoners here. You behind a desk... me behind... this. Fargo's reward for our services.

MILLER
When you killed innocent people you went far beyond service.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 64

Rico stands. Moves toward the energy curtain. Glares at Miller.

RICO
"Innocent"? A meaningless word. The innocent exist only until they inevitably become perpetrators themselves. In the end, "Guilt" and "Innocence" are merely a matter of timing.

MILLER
You're insane.

RICO
Am I? When did you become a perpetrator? Was it the time you found money mysteriously transferred into your account? Or the time I was sentenced to death? You've been taking bribes for years, Warden. You're a criminal. And a stupid one: You don't even know who's paying you.

MILLER
I don't want to know.

RICO
Ignorance is bliss, eh? You must be very blissful.
(weary)
Miller, why are you here?

MILLER
Your mysterious benefactor has sent you a package.

RICO
You're paid enough. Deliver it.

Annoyed, Miller speaks into a console before Rico's laser-guarded "cell."

MILLER
Deactivate Shield.

The ENERGY CURTAIN drops. The autoguns on the wall swivel toward Rico. Miller moves onto the platform, hands over the package. Rico places his thumb on the lock and it OPENS.

THE PACKAGE 77 65

Rico's JUDGE'S BADGE rests inside. Along with a PHOTOGRAPH... of Hammond, the newscaster.

BACK TO SCENE 66

MILLER
What is it?

RICO
Vindication.

WARDEN
What is that, a Judge's badge? Give it to me!

RICO
(with a shrug)
You asked for it.

Rico flings the badge like a Ninja star.

67 MILLER 67

The spinning badge lodges in his throat and blood spurts out. Gasping, the Warden falls onto his knees, pulls out the badge. With one hand on his throat, he staggers to the door while Rico descends from his platform.

MILLER
(coughing)
Computer....ac-active s-shield!

COMPUTER VOICE
Voice not recognized. Security Breach. Autoguns targeting.

Miller panics. Scrambles for the door.

MILLER
NO!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! He's cut down ten feet from the door.

68 OUTSIDE THE DOOR - THE TWO GUARDS 68

Jack shells into their riot guns. Charge inside -

69 BACK IN THE CELL 69

The guards only see Miller's body. Then Rico swings down from his hiding place - the turret of an autogun! He KICKS out with both feet - drives both Guards into the Energy Curtain. ZAP! They're instantly FRIED.

70 WIDER 70

Rico dismounts like an acrobat, snatches up a riot gun -HOLDS his badge up towards the autogun scanner. BEEP.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 70

The gun pivots away. The DOOR OPENS. Grinning, Rico steps outside and we

CUT TO:

71 INT. ACADEMY - INDOOR TRAINING RANGE - TIGHT ON DREDD 71

DREDD
Kevlar nine helmet and body armor.

WIDEN. Dredd is LECTURING to a group of CADETS who hang on his every word. We're in a TRAINING AREA like the one "Q" ran in the Bond movies.

Dredd turns. A TECH nods: Target ready. Dredd FIRES a barrage of bullets at a mannequin in Judge's gear. The bullets ricochet off. The class OOOHS and AHHS.

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.
(pause)
If you graduate.

72 NEW ANGLE 72

Dredd moves to another training station. Another tech nods: Ready.

DREDD(cont'd)
(holding it up)
Lawgiver Two. Twenty five round sidearm with mission-variable voice programmed ammunition.
(into gun)
Dye marker.

He turns, FIRES. RORSCHACH PATTERN explodes on the wall. Again - OOOHS and AHHS.

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours, when you graduate.

73 HERSHEY - AT SUPPLY ROOM - SAME TIME 73

She is exchanging her battered helmet. Now, she notices Dredd, lingers to watch, impressed with his style.

74 RESUME DREDD'S CLASS 74

Now he moves to several Techs who are hurriedly tweaking the most awesome LAWMASTER CYCLE we've seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 74

DREDD(cont'd)
Mark IV Lawmaster, improved model. With vertical take off and landing, flight capacity and 500 kilometer range.

The head Tech gives thumbs up while the other techs step back. The class waits, expectant. The lead tech throws a REMOTE. SPARKS fly. The motor COUGHS, dies. The class GROANS. Dredd glares at the embarrassed technicians.

DREDD(cont'd)
Yours... if they ever get it to work.

LAUGHTER. Dredd moves to a lectern. Faces the class.

DREDD(cont'd)
And all of these things are nothing but toys. Meaningless toys. Bottom line, final word, end of the day, when you're alone in the dark... all that counts... is this.

He takes something from the lectern shelf, throws it down. It's the all-but holy book: THE LAW.

DREDD(cont'd)
And you <u>will</u> be alone. Because when you swear on graduation day to uphold the ideals in these pages make no mistake about it: You are sacrificing whatever chance you have for a Life. For we have no Freedom, not when we are on call 24 hours a day. No security, not when our job kills half of every graduating class.

75 FAVORING CADETS 75

They frown; this is not what they expected to hear from a living legend. They become increasingly unnerved.

76 HERSHEY 76

The talk upsets her, too, perhaps more than the others.

DREDD'S VOICE(cont'd)
For most of us there is only lonely death on the streets... or, for those few who survive to old age... the prouder loneliness of the Long Walk.

RESUME DREDD 77

DREDD
(holding up the book)
Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Old ideas. Noble ideas. But they are what we as Judges give to others... not what we will ever receive for ourselves. Class dismissed.

The class breaks up on a definite low note.

CUT TO:

78 INT. ACADEMY LOCKER ROOM - DAY 78

Hershey, drying her hair with a towel, walks toward Dredd, who's at his locker.

HERSHEY
I caught your lecture today. Real cheery. Why didn't you just issue the cadets ammunition so they could blow their brains out?

DREDD
The least I can do for these kids is tell them the truth.

HERSHEY
It isn't as bad as you paint it. I have a personal life. I have lots of friends.

DREDD
Really. How long since you saw any of them?

HERSHEY
(defensive)
Well, my shifts have been changed a lot lately. Two months. Three months, tops.

DREDD
You've only been on the street a year. You're still in denial.

HERSHEY
It's not that bad.

DREDD
How many married Judges do you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 78

HERSHEY
Uh, well, my class is young. None of them have found the right... person.

He just looks at her.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
Christ, Dredd, has it really been like that for you? Haven't you ever been in -
(checking herself)
Haven't you ever had a... friend?

DREDD
Yes. Once.

HERSHEY
What happened?

Dredd takes off his helmet. It's the first time we've seen his face, and it's filled with barely controlled emotion.

DREDD
I judged him.

CUT TO:

79 EXT. MEGA CITY LOCK - NIGHT 79

The ASPEN FUEL BARGE is docked here, the words RADICAL CARBON 4 emblazoned on its side. Automated CONTAINER CARS pull up alongside the barge. CHUTES iris open, extend downwards.

80 ON THE CONTAINER CARS 80

They fill up with RC4. Rico emerges from the white, powdery ore, like a cockroach climbing out of a sugar bowl. He scurries to the truck's edge, leaps to the ground. Discards his guard's environmental suit and disappears into the night.

81 EXT. MEGA CITY - NIGHT 81

Not a nice part of town. Rico walks past rows of MEN enraptured in violent/erotic VIDEO GAMES. He looks around, searching.

82 UP ANGLE 82

A shop with a busy ever-changing SIGN: GEIGER'S BAZAAR. SURPLUS - PAWN - FAX BOXES - VOUCHERS CASHED. He heads inside.

INT. GEIGER'S - NIGHT 83

A large squalid pawnshop. Surplus and junk hangs from the cluttered walls. The rear is divided by a ceiling-high locked fence that secures the better grade merchandise. GEIGER, 50's, scowls as Rico enters. Puffs on a cigar.

GEIGER
We've closed for the night.

RICO
You're holding a package for me.
I'm... Rick.

GEIGER
Oh, yeah... Gimme a second.

While Geiger gets it, Rico quickly scans the store. A simple security camera in the corner. A jumble of crates and large antique weapons... including a few things that look like rusting metal warriors. Rico points to these.

RICO
I thought they destroyed all the
ABC Warbots?

GEIGER
(coming back)
You can collect 'em if you make 'em
non-functional. Like my wife.
(hands him box)
Here you go.

Geiger pretends not to watch as Rico opens the box with the thumb lock. Geiger sneaks a look... sees a uniform... and a Judge's Lawgiver. Rico starts to reach inside. Geiger stops him.

GEIGER
Whoa, friend, whoever sent you this
is no friend at all.

RICO
Oh? And why's that?

GEIGER
That's a Lawgiver. They're
programmed to only recognize a
Judge's hand. If you want a weapon,
I can get you something nice. But
if you touch that it'll take your
arm off.

RICO
Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 83

Rico grabs it suddenly. Geiger jumps back - then looks puzzled when nothing happens.

RICO
How do you like that?

He SHOOTS Geiger at point-blank range. Geiger hits the floor.

RICO(cont'd)
I must be a Judge.

Rico bends, takes Geiger's keys and his cigars... then goes to the big cage.

84 ON THE ABC ROBOT 84

A huge, armored combat veteran. We HEAR the metal cage rattle open. Rico approaches, crouches down and pulls a panel off the robot's body. Inside, the circuit cards have all been pulled from their sockets.

Rico begins whistling... reveille. He pushes the boards back in, hits the RESET button.

85 WIDER 85

The ROBOT starts to WHIR. A GUSH of steam rises from its powerful torso. The eyes glow RED. It stands to its eight foot height, slowly turning like an arthritic old man.

ROBOT
Status. Commander. Mission.

Rico strikes a match on the robot, lights a cigar.

RICO
Status: Personal bodyguard.
Commander: Rico. That's me.
Mission: We're going to war.
(smiles)
Geronimo.

CUT TO:

86 INT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX CORRIDOR - DAY 86

Hershey is walking along. A BELL rings and CADETS pour out. One of them, OLMEYER, catches up to Hershey, almost dropping his things: A data-reader and headphones, like all the other students... and unlike them, a LARGE BOOK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 86

OLMEYER
Judge Hershey, the yearbook deadline is only a week away. Have you changed your mind?

HERSHEY
I've reached a jurisprudent conclusion, Cadet Olmeyer: No in mallam crucem.

OLMEYER
Sorry, I've only had Freshman Latin. What's that mean?

HERSHEY
"No fucking way". Forget it, Olmeyer. I'm not gonna be the yearbook Centerfold!

She continues on. Olmeyer pursues her.

OLMEYER
It's not like we're doing one of those tacky 3-D holograms. The yearbook is all classic print and 2-D. That's art.

HERSHEY
That's bullshit. And if it's 2-D nobody will buy it anyway.

OLMEYER
That's why I want you for the centerfold. Here, let me show you a dummy -

He starts to open the book. She slams it closed on his fingers.

HERSHEY
No, let me show you a dummy.

She turns his head so he can SEE his reflection on the gleaming black wall behind them, then she leaves. Olmeyer looks at her, then double takes the wall.

87 DOWN ANGLE - THE WALL 87

Black obsidian, with carved out NAMES of all the Judges that ever were. "DREDD, JOSEPH" happens to be close enough to the CAMERA for us to read it. CAMERA ADJUSTS and we SEE Olmeyer run his fingers over a section of the wall that has been laser burned.

HERSHEY -IN THE CORRIDOR - SAME TIME 88

She tosses the yearbook dummy into the trash. Olmeyer runs into SHOT just in time to make an interception.

OLMEYER
Judge Hershey -

HERSHEY
Get lost, Olmeyer, or I'll show you some Sophomore karate.

OLMEYER
I just have a question! You know that laser burn on the Wall of Honor?

She stops, turns.

HERSHEY
Sure. Everybody's seen it. It's a campus legend.

OLMEYER
I've heard a zillion stories about how it got there. I'd love to get it right for the yearbook. How did it happen?

HERSHEY
I don't know. My class tried to find out, too. None of the instructors or Judges ever talk about it.

OLMEYER
Nobody knows?

HERSHEY
Or... nobody's talking.

They both turn, look back at the LASER BURN... and wonder.

CUT TO:

89 INT. A BAR - NIGHT 89

Very late, very empty. Surveillance cam over the bar. Hammond gets served a strange glowing drink. Knocks it back. The bartender, big, bald and female, sets him up again.

BARTENDER
Celebrating, Hammond? Whose career are you destroying this week?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 89

HAMMOND
(a little loaded)
I'll give you a little hint: After my broadcast tomorrow, the Judges are gonna be in the ashcan. Starting with Dredd.

BARTENDER
Dredd? You're asking for it.

HAMMOND
Hey, I'm not afraid of...

He breaks off; the Bartender's eyes are looking off. Hammond turns.

90 REVERSE ANGLE 90

Standing in the doorway is a JUDGE.

HAMMOND
(finishing the thought)
...Dredd...

BLAM BLAM BLAM! The Judge's gun FIRES and we

CUT TO:

91 EXT. NIRVANA HEIGHTS - DAY 91

A middle class plaza. Citizens and merchants go about their business. CAMERA CRANES down, finds Dredd on patrol. Something catches his eye. He stops his Lawmaster, gets off. We FOLLOW him towards a slick wet dream of a FUTURE GULL-WINGED CAR... parked in a HANDICAPPED ZONE.

Dredd takes out a BAR CODE READER, scans the license plate. As the gizmo searches its data base, the FUPPIE (Future Yuppie) CAR OWNER runs into view with a Cappuccino in a styrofoam cup. He "beeps" the lock, but Dredd blocks his way to the car door.

DREDD
Is this your car?

CAR OWNER
Hey, come on... what are you gonna do, tow me?

DREDD
Of course not. Towing is the penalty for the first offense. This is your second violation.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 91

DREDD (Cont'd)
(into Lawgiver)
Grenade.

CAR OWNER
HEY!

92 WIDER 92

Dredd aims, FIRES. The car EXPLODES! Dredd walks casually away while the car's owner stands slack-jawed with debris tinkling around him.

93 DREDD 93

The wreck burning behind him, Dredd head back towards his bike... suddenly STOPS. He sees TWO FIGURES in front of him. And, the moment he does, he knows without looking that there are two identical ones behind him.

They're garbed for combat, yet without even the trace of humanity that seeps through a Street Judge's armor. These are the feared JUDGE HUNTERS. All have drawn weapons. The LEADER holds up a HOLO WARRANT with Dredd's PICTURE.

JUDGE HUNTER LEADER
Judge Joseph Dredd. You are under arrest.

CUT TO:

94 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 94

The civil and legal heart of Mega-City, it is dark and empty at this hour. CAMERA sweeps over the great DAIS here and the MAP of North America etched on it. Only a few lights stand out on all the continent: The Boston-Washington megalopolis now called MEGA-CITY ONE; its West Coast equivalent, MEGA-CITY TWO; and TEXAS CITY. In the Rockies, the ASPEN PENAL COLONY. All the rest, the vast middle, is labeled THE CURSED EARTH.

CAMERA finds a broken figure here: Fargo. Ashen, he sits in the Chief Justice's seat, face in his hands.

FARGO
Dredd. I... I can't believe it...
(looking up)
They're sure?

CAMERA ADJUSTS. We SEE Griffin is standing below him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 94

GRIFFIN
I'm afraid the evidence is conclusive. The trial will be just a formality.

Fargo descends shakily from his seat. Moves to the window. He takes a pill from his pocket, tries to swallow it without Griffin seeing.

FARGO
Is it possible? Dredd, homicidal too? We went through this fifteen years ago...

GRIFFIN
We were able to hide the facts then. This time, we may not be so lucky.

FARGO
(turning)
What do you mean?

GRIFFIN
The victim was a reporter. The media is already sniffing around. Eventually... they'll get to the truth.

FARGO
(stricken)
Janus?

GRIFFIN
Janus... and you.

FARGO
Me?

GRIFFIN
Fifteen years ago, when the truth was buried along with the victims, the council ordered the termination of Janus... the complete termination. You obviously defied that order... otherwise this new disaster could never have happened.

FARGO
(a whisper)
If the truth comes out, it could destroy everything we've built... we could go back to the Years of Chaos!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 94

Stricken, he glances over at the great map...remembering.

GRIFFIN
There's a way out, Chief Justice.
(pause)
The Long Walk.

FARGO
Into oblivion? You're suggesting I take it? You must really want to destroy me - !

GRIFFIN
No. I want to save the Judge system. The media won't stop digging into Dredd's case. When they get to the bottom... they'll find you. But if you take the Long Walk... they'll find nothing but your honored memory.

FARGO
My Walk will give you the Chief Judgeship!

GRIFFIN
It could also save Dredd's life.

CUT TO:

95 INT. JUDGE'S' COMPLEX - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 95

Hershey is being quickly escorted along a corridor by the four Judge Hunters. The place is dark and empty.

JUDGE HUNTER
In here.

The Judge Hunters open a HOLDING CELL. Hershey steps inside.

96 INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT 96

Hershey is surprised to see the inhabitant:

HERSHEY
Dredd? What's going on? And who are those feebs? I've never seen those uniforms before -

DREDD
They're Judge Hunters, Hershey. They're the ones who come out when a Judge has broken the Law.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 96

HERSHEY
Judge Hunters? They're real? They say they only come out once in a generation-

DREDD
These guys have come out twice in fifteen years. So they're in a real bad mood.
(serious)
Judge Hershey. I don't have anyone else to ask... Will... will you be my defense attorney?

HERSHEY
You're under indictment? For what?

DREDD
Murder.

CUT TO:

97 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY 97

EXPLOSION of GUNFIRE on the MAIN SCREEN. We WIDEN. We're seeing the tail end of a FISH-EYE SURVEILLANCE VIDEO of Hammond's murder.

JUDGE MCGRUDER'S VOICE
Stop Video.

98 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - WIDER - DAY 98

The place is absolutely packed. Every off-duty Judge in Mega-City is here. So is every Cadet from the Academy, plus the entire media brigade. We note that two oddly reassuring elements from our era are still here: A COURTROOM ARTIST (with a computer sketchpad and lightpen), and a COURTROOM STENOGRAPHER (with his hands stuffed into a FIST STENO KEYBOARD.) Make no mistake about it: this is a real, fair trial. And we're going to see it.

The Prosecutor is COUNCIL JUDGE MCGRUDER. In her sixties, she's sharp and resourceful.

MCGRUDER(cont'd)
Before we go on, I wish to make a personal comment.
(turning)
Judge Dredd. I have observed your career from its outset and I have the highest regard for you. Nevertheless, I must prosecute you to the best of my ability.

DREDD - AT THE DEFENDANT'S STATION 99

DREDD
That is the Law, Judge McGruder. I would expect no less.

100 NEW ANGLE - REVEALING THE HIGHEST SEAT 100

In Judge Fargo's place sits Judge Griffin. He is wearing the uniform of the Chief Justice.

GRIFFIN
The Court shares in Judge McGruder's sentiments. In a way I am glad that Judge Fargo is about to begin his Long Walk. He will be spared the pain of this trial. Proceed, Judge McGruder.

MCGRUDER
The video you have just seen is prima fascia evidence that the defendant is guilty as charged. Mark this video People's Exhibit "A".

CLERK
So marked.

At the defendant's station, Hershey stands.

HERSHEY
Objection, Your Honor. This video is inadmissible as evidence.

MCGRUDER
Judge Hershey, are you serious? Both of them recognized Judge Dredd!

HERSHEY
That is the State's interpretation. Replay dialogue.

VIDEO rewinds. Then:

BARTENDER'S VOICE
Dredd? You're asking for it.

HAMMOND'S VOICE
Hey, I'm not afraid of...Dredd..?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 100

HERSHEY
Stop video. Do you hear it? When the bartender says "Dredd", it's part of the conversation. And when the victim says 'Dredd' it could just as easily be the same. The suggestion that either has recognized their murderer is sheer supposition... or, in the case of the prosecution, wishful thinking!

BIG REACTION from the packed room. Griffin bangs the gavel for silence.

101 THE DEFENSE TABLE 101

Hershey returns here to get another document. Dredd WHISPERS.

DREDD
Judge Hershey. I'm really glad I picked you.

HERSHEY
You picked me because you didn't have anyone else.

DREDD
But I'm still glad.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Hershey forward.

MCGRUDER
(to Hershey)
All right, counselor. Forget the conversation. Forget the audio. What about the video? It clearly shows -

HERSHEY
It clearly shows nothing!
(turning)
Your Honor, I have here an affidavit from Cadet Olmeyer, currently a Junior at the Academy.

02 OLMEYER - IN THE AUDIENCE 102

CADET NEAR OLMEYER
(impressed)
Olmeyer. You're working with Hershey?

OLMEYER
(crossing fingers)
We're like this.

RESUME TRIAL 103

HERSHEY
Cadet Olmeyer is acknowledged by all his instructors to be an expert in the field of still and video graphics. His affidavit states that this surveillance video is of such low definition that even after all known enhancements are used on it, no positive identification can be made of the killer. Since the uniform of a Judge could be counterfeit, I repeat my objection to this video being entered as evidence in this case.
(turning to Griffin)
I ask for a ruling.

You could hear a pin drop in the vast room. Everyone watching is sure they know what Griffin will say. They're all wrong.

GRIFFIN
Objection... sustained. The video is inadmissible.

ON OLMEYER - IN AUDIENCE 104

OLMEYER
Yessss!

The rest of the courtroom goes nuts. Griffin bangs for order. The BAILIFFS call out.

BAILIFFS
Order, order!

05 HERSHEY 105

returns to the defendant's table as the court quiets down. Behind her, Olmeyer WHOOPS a second longer than everyone else. Embarrassed, he quiets down, but not before Dredd notices him.

DREDD
That kid barely knows me and he wants to save my ass.

HERSHEY
Trust me. It's not your ass he's interested in.

JUDGE MCGRUDER 106

MCGRUDER
Your Honor. I am forced now to enter evidence that could compromise the security of the Mega-City Legal system. I therefore ask that the courtroom be cleared.

107 HERSHEY AND DREDD 107

They look at each other, as puzzled as everyone else.

GRIFFIN
So moved. The court will be cleared of all non-essential observers.

HERSHEY
(quickly standing)
Your Honor, I ask that my technical advisor Cadet Olmeyer be ruled essential to the Defense.

GRIFFIN
So moved.

IN THE AUDIENCE 108

Olmeyer seems six feet tall. He pushes his friends aside.

OLMEYER
Excuse me, Gentlemen. I have to consult with my partner.

109 DOWN BELOW 109

The participants wait until the room has been cleared. The bailiffs lock the doors. McGruder turns to Griffin while Olmeyer joins Hershey and Dredd.

MCGRUDER
Your Honor, I will need to use the Central Computer.

GRIFFIN
Proceed.

McGruder approaches a special CONSOLE. This is one of many in Mega-City that permit access to "Central" - the Judge System's main computer. Most of the consoles look alike, but this has the largest screen we will see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 109

MCGRUDER
Central. I wish you to access weapons schematics, Judges division. Please describe the workings of the standard Judge's sidearm, the Lawgiver Two, and especially its improvements over the earlier Lawgiver One.

Central SPEAKS. Somehow its monotonous, sexless voice hints at an actual personality.

CENTRAL
One moment.

110 NEW ANGLE 110

COMPUTER GRAPHICS illustrating these words APPEARS on screen.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
Fifteen years ago, the Lawgiver Model Two replaced the Lawgiver Model One. The difference lies in two areas: The computer chip and the ammunition coding. Like the Model one, the computer chip recognizes the thumbcode of all Judges. Judges may use each other's firearms; but a suspect dare not use a Judge's weapon against a Judge.

ANIMATION reminds us of this in non-gory fashion.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
However, the ammunition coding in the Model Two is not cued to the recognition chip. Instead, it is coded to the personal DNA of the Judge using the weapon. When a round is fired, it is tagged with the relevant DNA.

11 DREDD, HERSHEY & OLMEYER 111

Listening carefully, wondering where this is going.

CENTRAL'S VOICE
This is obtained in a download from my medical files and upgraded automatically every time the weapon is reloaded. Each time a round is chambered and fired, it is tagged with the relevant DNA.

NEW ANGLE 112

We slowly TIGHTEN on McGruder and her "witness".

MCGRUDER
Central. Was the bullet recovered from Vardis Hammond's body so DNA coded?

CENTRAL
Yes, Judge McGruder. It could not be otherwise.

MCGRUDER
And have you done a computer check of the DNA coding on that bullet?

CENTRAL
I have.

MCGRUDER
And what was the result of that computer check?

You could swear that the computer is going for drama.

CENTRAL
The DNA is a perfect match for Judge Joseph Dredd.

113. HALL OF JUSTICE - WIDE SHOT 113

If we thought we had seen pandemonium before, we were wrong. This is it. Griffin bangs for order.

114 DEFENSE STATION 114

OLMEYER
Come on, Hersh! Nail her to the wall!

HERSHEY
I...I can't! DNA evidence is irrefutable!

She looks at Dredd, helpless.

DREDD
Do your job.

She nods, stands.

HERSHEY
Your Honor... the defense rests.

WIDER 115

Griffin looks at McGruder.

MCGRUDER
Your Honor, the Prosecution rests.

GRIFFIN
The Jury may be sequestered.

The Foreman, COUNCIL JUDGE ESPOSITO, stands.

ESPOSITO
Your Honor, sequestering is not necessary. The evidence is irrefutable.
(looks around)
We have reached a Verdict.

GRIFFIN
You may read it.

ESPOSITO
In the charge of Pre-meditated Murder, we the Jury find Joseph Dredd GUILTY as charged.

GASPS from the audience. It's the fall of a Legend.

116 ON GRIFFIN 116

He takes out a sealed document.

GRIFFIN
I have here the last order of Judge Fargo, written this morning before he prepared for the Long Walk. He orders that this Court be lenient with Judge Dredd, in gratitude for his years of service.
(setting this down)
It has always been our custom to carry out the last order of a Walking Judge. We will so honor this one.
(new tone)
The sentence will be carried out immediately. As it is Written:

Griffin picks up the book of the Law, kisses it. Opens it. And reads.

DEFENSE STATION 117

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Betrayer of the Law be taken from our Courts;"

Already the Judge Hunters are coming for him.

HERSHEY
Dredd. I... I'm sorry.

DREDD
You did your best, Judge Hershey.

He stands, takes her hand.

DREDD(cont'd)
Thank you.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let the Freedom he stole from others be stolen from himself;"

The Judge Hunters pull at him. Hershey hangs on as long as she can.

HERSHEY
Dredd..!

18 ON GRIFFIN - RAKED CAMERA 118

GRIFFIN
"Let his armor be taken from him, and all his garb of Justice..."

19 DREDD - SOMEWHERE 119

The Judge Hunters pull off his armor, then literally rip away his uniform. He's naked, helpless.

20 GRIFFIN - VERY CLOSE 120

still reading -

GRIFFIN
"Let his armor be beaten into chains..."

21 WITH DREDD - SOMEWHERE 121

A HI-TECH DEVICE FLASH MELTS his armor. The Judge Hunters remove the newly formed chains, still smoking. They HAMMER them closed on Dredd's wrist, forming manacles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 121

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
"And let him be bound with those chains he once so proudly wore."

CUT TO:

122 HERSHEY AND OLMEYER - HALL OF JUSTICE CORRIDOR - DAY 122

They come out of the courtroom, broken. Both look off -REACT to -

123 TECHNICIANS - AT THE WALL OF HONOR 123

They're on a SCAFFOLD using a LASER to burn away Dredd's name. The letters MELT.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let his name be removed from all places of Honor..."

CUT TO:

124 EXT. GATES OF MEGA CITY - SUNSET 124

It is the ceremony of The Long Walk. Judge Fargo stands alone, wearing a LONG DUSTER COAT and a wide brimmed HAT. Before him he holds his uniform, Lawgiver, and badge in a ceremonial bundle.

A young FEMALE CADET in an sweet Contralo that contrasts with Griffin's bass READS from a different part of The Law:

FEMALE CADET
(reading)
"Let his name be recorded in every place of Honor. Let him take the Law he served so well to those who have it not."

The great city gate begins to OPEN. Under a fading SUNSET we SEE the forbidden land beyond: THE CURSED EARTH. We TIGHTEN on Fargo, grizzled, weary; the girl, fresh, tearful. Like so many, she reveres this man and what he represents.

FEMALE CADET
"Let him be written in our hearts and our memories."

She hands him the Book. Receives his bundle of worldly belongings in return. Now a young MALE CADET steps forward, hands Fargo an ancient REMINGTON.

CUT TO:

DREDD 125

Being shoved into a jammed PRISON SHUTTLE. GUARDS fling him in his seat. The shuttle door closes, locks.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Let him be stricken from our hearts and our memories."

CUT TO:

126 FARGO 126

FEMALE CADET
"Forever."

A line of CADETS raises Lawgivers overhead. They FIRE a 21 GUN SALUTE. Fargo walks out. The lock SLAMS SHUT.

CUT TO:

127 EXT. CITY LAUNCH AREA - DUSK 127

The shuttle FIRES its engines.

GRIFFIN'S VOICE
"Forever."

CUT TO:

128 EXT. MEGA-CITY ONE LONG SHOT - DUSK 128

Dredd's shuttle THUNDERS overhead. Far below in the poisoned sand, Fargo looks up at it.

CUT TO:

129 EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT 129

Lightning crackles around the Eagle's head. A floating TANKER refuels at a nearby roof top.

130 INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 130

Griffin comes inside, hits his intercom.

GRIFFIN
Any word on the Aspen situation?

INTERCOM VOICE
No, Chief Justice. We haven't had contact for hours. As soon as the weather breaks we'll arrange a flyover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 130

GRIFFIN
Call me the minute it's in the air. I want information!

He disconnects.

VOICE FROM SHADOWS
Perhaps I can inform you, Chief Justice...

Griffin's chair turns around. Rico is sitting in it.

RICO
They had a little problem with their communications system. In fact... with all their systems.

131 REVERSE ANGLE 131

Griffin looks at him in shock for a moment.

GRIFFIN
Are you out of your mind, coming here?

Griffin angrily starts forward... stops when the ABC robot moves to block his path.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
And you brought this, too?

Griffin waves his hand over desk controls. The lights DIM. SHUTTERS block the windows.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
(moving closer)
If you want to contact me, use Geiger's mail drop! That's what it's for!

RICO
Geiger has closed... for remodeling. Besides... I like to do things my way.

GRIFFIN
Yes, I know. Like framing Dredd for Hammond's murder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 131

RICO
(smiling)
I thought that was a nice creative touch. Sort of two birds with one stone.

GRIFFIN
Hammond had to be silenced, he found out about the Janus project! But I could have used Dredd! He trusted me! He practically worshiped the ground I walked on-

RICO
Dredd only worships the Law. And he'd blow you away the minute he found out just how much you're pissing on it. Trust me: It's better this way. Let him see what it's like to freeze his ass off in Aspen. Let him see what it's like to be me! After all...

He moves closer to Griffin, smiles.

RICO(cont'd)
...Dredd and I have so much in common. Why not this?

Griffin looks at him, decides to drop the subject.

GRIFFIN
There's a lot of work to be done.

RICO
Yes. The Janus lab -

GRIFFIN
You'll see it soon enough. In the meantime... I want terror, Rico. That block war was just the beginning. Now I want fear racing through every street... terror in every quad... panic in every block. Until those miserable rezzies think even their Judges can't save them. That's when the Council will turn to me... and to Janus.

RICO
Terror, fear, panic. I think I can handle that. After all...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) 131

Rico moves towards the door. Pauses and smiles.

RICO
Look how quickly I brought fear in here.

His smile fades and he exits.

CUT TO:

132 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 132

A HOWLING WIND blows dust across the dead landscape. The ASPEN PRISON SHUTTLE appears over the horizon.

133 INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 133

PILOT'S VOICE
Attention. We are locked onto Aspen Prison landing radar. Riding the beam.

Flanked by perps and killers, Dredd sits, aware of the hateful looks all around him.

PRISONER BEHIND HIM
I want a piece of you, scumbag.

DREDD
Okay.

With a SNAP and without looking, he jerks his elbow backwards. The prisoner is knocked unconscious. As he sags in his chains, CAMERA WIDENS.

The prisoner next to Dredd is Fergie. Fergie glances at Dredd. Doesn't recognize him without his uniform and helmet.

FERGIE
What are you in for?

DREDD
Murder. But I'm innocent.

FERGIE
Yeah. Me too.

Dredd looks at Fergie, registers him.

DREDD
No. You were guilty. You broke parole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 133

Fergie stares at Dredd. Then puts his hands over Dredd's face, leaving Dredd's jaw exposed, and parting his fingers at Dredd's eyes, like the visor slit in the Judge's helmet. Fergie's eyes go wide.

FERGIE
Dredd? What are you doing here?

DREDD
There was a major malfunction of justice.

FERGIE
Really? Like my five years for trying to save my life?

DREDD
You got the sentence the Law required.

FERGIE
It was a mistake!

DREDD
The Law does not make mistakes.

FERGIE
Then how do you explain what happened to you?

DREDD
(pause)
I... can't.

FERGIE
Well, don't worry about it, Dredd. You'll have the rest of your life in jail to figure it out.

CUT TO:

34 INT. DREDD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 134

A narrow window lets in the thinnest sliver of moonlight. Two armchairs, worn leather, from our era. A couple of exotic plants, now wilted. An antique bookcase of burnished wood -a rare material in Mega-City.

Something rattles at the door. The lock GLOWS briefly... something SNAPS. The door opens.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 134

COMPUTER VOICE
Judge Dredd, you have an intruder.
Alarm will sound in thirty seconds.

Hershey steps in, putting a small tool away in a belt pouch. She closes the door. Takes in the monastic feel of the place. She moves to the bookcase: A small collection of leather-bound books, maybe a dozen in all. Plato, More, Jefferson, Paine. Hershey runs her fingers over the well-worn titles.

135 DREDD'S BEDROOM 135

Narrow bed. A small dresser and chair... no windows.

COMPUTER VOICE
Twenty seconds.

Hershey opens a drawer. A few clothes. She slips her hands underneath, feels around, finds nothing. Opens the next drawer. Searches. Finds a framed "viewie" on the nightstand. It shows a COUPLE in their 30's with a BABY.

HERSHEY
(off viewie, amused)
Well. Baby Dredd.

136 CLOSER 136

At her touch, the viewie becomes briefly ANIMATED.

137 BACK TO SCENE 137

She's about to put it down - when something about its weight makes her suspicious. She turns it over, examines it - finds a HIDDEN SEAL. The frame OPENS. Inside is a second viewie. It shows Dredd, mid-twenties - and Rico, the same age. Both are grinning: Graduation day at the Academy.

138 CLOSE ON HERSHEY 138

She's puzzled - quite clearly, she has no idea who Rico is.

COMPUTER VOICE
Ten seconds. Nine... eight...

Hershey folds the frame back up - takes it. Slips out the door just as the ALARM SOUNDS -

CUT TO:

ASPEN SHUTTLE - NIGHT 139

Approaching the storm-whipped mountain prison.

PILOT'S VOICE
Crew, secure all stations. Prepare for docking.

140 INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT 140

The shuttle SHUDDERS, slowing. Guards move down the aisles.

PILOT'S VOICE
Guards, prepare prisoners for disembarkment. Entering docking bay... now.

SOUNDS of ENGINES shutting down, GIANT BULKHEADS opening.

FERGIE
(to Dredd)
You'd better not be my roommate.

Before Dredd can reply, the SHUTTLE DOOR gets BLASTED OPEN. Everyone DUCKS as DEBRIS flies inward.

1 ANGLE ON THE DOOR 141

ASPEN PRISON GUARDS back into the SHOT, FIRING weapons. Beyond them, we SEE ESCAPED CONVICTS creeping forward, FIRING. Stray bullets take out a shuttle PRISONER. Everyone dives for cover as much as their chains will let them.

SHUTTLE GUARD
What the fuck's happening?

ASPEN GUARD
System Crash! All the lock ups opened!

The Shuttle guards draw weapons, FIRE into the corridor. The Aspen guard who spoke gets HIT, falls to the floor.

42 DREDD 142

crawls over to the man, makes him comfortable.

DREDD
A System Crash? How? Sabotage -?

ASPEN GUARD
(a whisper)
No - an escapee - special prisoner...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 142

ASPEN GUARD (Cont'd)
nobody even knew he was there.., broke out of a cell run directly by the mainframe... killed the warden... released all the other prisoners before he got away...

DREDD
A special prisoner? Who?
(shaking him)
Who?

ASPEN GUARD
R..Rico...

He dies. Dredd is stunned. Fergie (hiding under a seat) notices this.

DREDD
Rico? That's... impossible. He's dead -

He looks up in time to see one of the Shuttle Guards get killed. Dredd turns towards the front of the cabin.

DREDD
Take off, now!

143 NEW ANGLE 143

Dredd sees that the pilot has been shot through the back of his chair. The co-pilot, wounded, is in no shape for anything.

Dredd looks aft, sees only two guards are alive - both wounded. The convicts outside rush forward. The prisoners aboard the shuttle cheer them on.

SHUTTLE PRISONERS
(AD-LIB)
Come on, come on, get us out! There's only two guards left! Get the keys! (ETC.)

Dredd snatches the dead guard's pistol from the floor -BLASTS away his chain! Turns the gun on Fergie - who pales until Dredd blasts his chains, too.

DREDD
Hack the shuttle!

FERGIE
W-what -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 143

DREDD
Hack the shuttle, now!

Dredd shoves him towards the cabin. Dredd turns, FIRES, dropping boarding convicts. Frightened, Fergie hits controls, types commands.

FERGIE
I'm in the system -!

The armed convicts are swarming towards Dredd SHOOTS two, KICKS a third. Shouts over his shoulder to Fergie.

DREDD
PUNCH IT!

Fergie hits the throttle.

144 SHUTTLE ENGINES - IN THE DOCKING BAY 144

They FIRE - the shuttle BLASTS OFF -

145 ESCAPING CONVICTS - IN THE DOCKING BAY 145

They're ENGULFED in a BALL OF FIRE -

INT. SHUTTLE - IN FLIGHT - NIGHT 146

The whole craft TILTS. Dredd and a CONVICT fall towards the door. WIND sucks at them. Dredd POUNDS and POUNDS on the convict's grip until the man FALLS to his death. Dredd hits the door control. It slams shut.

147 THE SHUTTLE - LONG SHOT - NIGHT 147

It spirals through the air, out of control.

148 INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT 148

Dredd struggles forward. A PRISONER grabs at him. Without even looking Dredd pounds him into the floor.

DREDD
What's the Goddamn problem?

FERGIE
The stabilizers! They got hit in the gunfight!

CAMERA RAKES to the control panel... and a SMOKING, SIZZLING section. The craft tilts alarmingly. Dredd grabs the stick, helps Fergie try and pull up. It's useless.

149 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 149

The shuttle spirals towards the earth.

150 INT. SHUTTLE 150

The ground rushes up - fills the main viewport -

151 EXT. CURSED EARTH - NIGHT 151

The shuttle CRASHES, skids across the ground, smashing through rocks and cacti. Stabilizer fins SNAP off. WINDOWS shatter. The fuselage breaks in two. The rear half with the engines EXPLODES while the forward cabin keeps rolling.

152 NEW ANGLE - NIGHT 152

The forward half of the shuttle comes to rest. There's one last groan of metal from the cabin, and then... silence. As the WIND pushes clouds past the hanging moon, we

CUT TO:

153 INT. PLEASURE BAR - FOLLOWING RICO - NIGHT 153

Crowded. Dangerous. In shadowy corners and dark booths, bodies and souls are being bought and sold. Strange sounds of pain and pleasure assault our ears.

Somehow even these twisted and dangerous people know not to fuck with Rico. They move out of his way almost instinctively.

154 A SCUZZY BIKER TYPE 154

suddenly flies out of a booth, SMACKS into a column near Rico. He shakes off the blow, wipes blood from his mouth... howls with animal fury. Charges back into the booth.

155 NEW ANGLE 155

His adversary appears, a whirling, lean muscular figure in leather and latex - a woman named ILSA. Now, with four spectacular karate moves, she hits him high, low, middle - and -the coup de grace - right in the balls!

156 CLOSER ON THE BIKER 156

His eyes glaze. He drops like a stone. WIDEN as Ilsa kneels, pulls money from his pocket.

ILSA

Asshole.

She's counting the money when she sees the amused eyes of the man watching her from four feet away: Rico.

157 CLOSE ON ILSA 157

ILSA(cont'd)
(disbelieving)
R...Rico?

Her eyes widen, glisten. And then this twenty-sixth century hellion trembles like a Victorian heroine. She drops the money, runs into Rico's arms... showers him with kisses.

ILSA(cont'd)
You're alive... you're alive! I never thought that... I never dreamed that...

Rico reaches out gently...wipes a tear from her cheek.

RICO
Don't go woosy on me, Ilsa. We got work to do.

He puts his arm around her. They step over her victim on their way out.

CUT TO:

158 EXT. CURSED EARTH DAWN 158

MOVEMENT inside the smashed aircraft.

158A INT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY 158A

Helmeted JUDGE HUNTERS move through the dim wreck, using BAR CODE READERS to scan the ID tags of the dead. Another Hunter steps inside through a jagged hole in the fuselage.

SECOND HUNTER
Sir. We found two sets of tracks. Heading in the direction of Mega-City.

The HUNTER SQUAD LEADER taps his helmet mike.

HUNTER SQUAD LEADER
This is Capture Team. No sign of Dredd. He appears to have survived the crash. Repeat, he appears to have survived.

CUT TO:

158B INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - MEGA-CITY - INTERCUT 158B

Griffin leans over his intercom, speaks to it like it's the Squad Leader himself.

GRIFFIN
You are in error, Capture Team. Dredd did not survive the shuttle wreck. No one survived the shuttle wreck. Do I make myself clear?

SQUAD LEADER
Yessir. Quite Clear.

He disconnects.

ANOTHER HUNTER
Sir! We found someone.

We follow them forward. Their flashlights converge on one of the WOUNDED GUARDS.

WOUNDED GUARD
Thank God... thank -

His eyes widen as their LASER GUNSIGHTS moves to his chest.

158C EXT. WRECKED SHUTTLE - DAY 158C

GUNFIRE erupts within and we

CUT TO:

159 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT - MORNING 159

Enough personal things to tell us she's both a danger-crazed athlete... and a romantic. She's still in sleepwear, her uniform for today already laid out. She sips coffee from an Academy mug. Sits down at her apartment's Central Station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 159

HERSHEY
Central, I need to access the graphics database.

CENTRAL
That could take several days, Judge Hershey. The Graphic Database covers all known graphics, from the Paleoithic Era to today.

HERSHEY
(patiently)
I want a viewie scanned to ID an unknown person.

CENTRAL
Oh, that will be much simpler. Mini-loop flat terminals "viewies" in the vernacular - first replaced the earlier "photograph" eighty years ago. The entire database can be scanned in only-

HERSHEY
(exasperated)
Central!

CENTRAL
(quickly)
-- only fifteen seconds.

Hershey takes out the framed pair of viewies she took from Dredd's apartment, removes the one of Dredd and Rico. She puts it in the scanning aperture.

CENTRAL
Make that ten seconds. I can see from here that the one on the left is Judge Dredd.
(all business now)
Scanning for identity, unknown male, approximately 200 Cm. tall, weighing 95 kilos, Skin Tone Three. Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six -

Suddenly the CONSOLE GOES DEAD with a BEEP.

HERSHEY
Central? Central? Hello?

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: (2) 159

A CANNED VOICE
(not Central)
This terminal has been disconnected from the main system for a system check. You no longer have access to the system. Thank you.

The viewie pops out of the slot with a thunk. Hershey looks at the computer suspiciously.

CUT TO:

160 EXT. CURSED EARTH DAY 160

Burning sky and sand. Dredd and Fergie appear. They wear improvised desert gear salvaged from the shuttle. Dredd moves forward, relentless. Fergie, exhausted, starts examining their meager rations.

FERGIE
Salted nuts and mineral water. You'd think we were flying first class.

DREDD
(voice cracking)
Come on. We have to keep moving.

FERGIE
Really? And what if we don't? What happens then?

DREDD
We die.

FERGIE
I got a bulletin, Dreddy -

Fergie displays an empty water bottle, shakes it. Throws it!

FERGIE(cont'd)
We're gonna die either way!

DREDD
I said, come on -

FERGIE
And it's all your fucking fault!

DREDD
My fault?

(CONTINUED)

160 CONTINUED: 160

FERGIE
Yes! I wouldn't be here in the first place if you hadn't thrown the book at me!

Fergie sits down petulantly.

FERGIE(cont'd)
And I'm gonna stop shlepping through this Goddamn sand and sit here until I die... or until you apologize.

DREDD
The Law doesn't apologize.

FERGIE
You're not a Judge anymore.

DREDD
I was when I sentenced you.

FERGIE
Don't get technical. Just say: "I'm sorry I misjudged you. And I'll never arrest you again."

Dredd turns around. Marches back to Fergie. Pause. Dredd whips a gun up, points it at Fergie. COCKS it.

FERGIE
(after a moment)
Apology accepted.

Dredd turns... walks. Fergie races to catch up.

CUT TO:

161 thru 163 OMITTED 161 thru 163

164 INT. JANUS LAB - DAY 164

After all the talk about this place, we probably expected more. Sure, it's big; but half the hi-tech gear is under dusty plastic, and the rest is under repair. Rico sweats over a power module, straining with a wrench.

RICO
Come on, you piece of junk...
(aside to his robot)
No offense.

(CONTINUED)

164 CONTINUED: 164

The bolt loosens. Rico can open the panel.

RICO
Let there be Light.

He flips a switch. The OVERHEAD LIGHTS come on.

165 LAB - NEW ANGLE 165

A PNEUMATIC DOOR OPENS. Griffin enters. He looks around, pleased.

GRIFFIN
You've made a lot of progress. Good.

ILSA'S VOICE
Lights! About time -

Griffin's eyes narrow as Ilsa comes in from another area with a clipboard.

RICO
She's with me. Ilsa... this is Chief Justice Griffin. He's in charge.

ILSA
Good. Then he can get these.
(showing clipboard)
We need three inducers to replace the ones that corroded in the incubators. And that nitrogen coil? It couldn't chill a soda.

RICO
(off Griffin's look; proud)
Smart, tough. And what an ass.

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED: 165

GRIFFIN
(reading pad)
I can pull all this from Mega-City hospital. Requisition is all electronic. They won't even know it's gone. When can you be on-line?

RICO
Tomorrow. But it won't mean a thing if you can't get into Central's Janus files. They're still security locked.

GRIFFIN
Leave that to me. Meanwhile you have work to do... on the streets.

RICO
"Fear, Terror, Panic." We were just on a coffee break anyway. Here, Fido. Walkies.

He WHISTLES at the robot as if it were a dog. It follows him and Ilsa out.

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY DORM - STUDENT DATA PODS - DAY 166

Through the window blinds we can see the distant Hall of Justice. We're in the Multi-media study cubicles used by the undergraduates. Olmeyer is at a graphics work station with roughs of his yearbook tacked all over the walls. The workstation PURRS while Hershey glares at him.

HERSHEY
The Prom? You want me to go to the Goddamn Junior Prom?

OLMEYER
I've given up on the centerfold. I'll settle for a Prom date.

HERSHEY
We're trying to save Judge Dredd, and you're using the situation to blackmail me. That's disgraceful!

OLMEYER
I know. But I'll never get another chance like this. Come on, Hershey.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 166

OLMEYER (Cont'd)
If you're right and there's some kind of lockout on the Central Computer, I could get in a lot of trouble.

HERSHEY
This is a dumb graphics terminal. It's not connected to Central. No one will know -

OLMEYER
I'll know. I'm already racked with guilt.
(pointing)
It's almost through processing the viewie. Do we have a deal?

HERSHEY
(through her teeth)
Yes!

OLMEYER
Low cut dress?

HERSHEY
Yes! Just do it!

OLMEYER
(cocky)
Graphics Analysis coming up... now.

He hits a control dramatically. The screen comes up... shows the PICTURE OF BABY DREDD AND PARENTS. Hershey stares at it in disbelief.

HERSHEY
Olmeyer, you stupid futz! You analyzed the wrong picture!

OLMEYER
I did?

She gropes around on the desk, finds the viewie frame with the shot of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY
You were supposed to do this one! You just wasted three hours!

The computer BEEPS. MESSAGES run by the bottom of the screen.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2) 166

OLMEYER
If this is the wrong picture, why is it full of anomalies?

HERSHEY
What?

OLMEYER
Slick ones, too... somebody must have used a CGI terminal and a scan quadrupler to make this.

He looks at the image, uses the mouse.

HERSHEY
You mean... it's not real?

OLMEYER
Take a look. I'll drop out all the artificial pixels.

167 NEW ANGLE 167

Hershey's eyes widen in shock as, one by one, the PICTURE ELEMENTS DISAPPEAR, scan line by scan line.

OLMEYER(cont'd)
Sky. Foreground. House. Parents... they're all fake.
(turning)
The only thing that's real is the baby.

She's in shock. Maybe we are, too.

CUT TO:

168 EXT. CURSED EARTH - GHOST TOWN - DAY 168

WIND whistles through broken windows. Dredd and Fergie are poking through the ruins. Fergie's voice is a dry croak.

FERGIE
This is hopeless. This place was picked clean ages ago.

Dredd moves rubble - finds a rusty CAN OF FOOD.

DREDD
Look harder.

Fergie eagerly grabs it. Tries to bang it open with a rock.

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED: 168

DREDD(cont'd)
(suddenly)
Hold it.

He grabs Fergie's hand. Yes; Dredd definitely HEARD something; a noise out of sync with Fergie's banging.

FERGIE
Wha-

Dredd "shushes" him. Pulls him out of sight.

169 THEIR POV 169

Nothing. Then, with a whine of engines, a SAND CRUISER slides to a halt. Four Judge Hunters get out, split up. Their heavy weapons have tracking screens attached. They begin to search the town.

170 DREDD AND FERGIE - HIDING - RESUME 170

DREDD
(grimly, whisper)
Judge Hunters. They only want me. You can surrender.

FERGIE
They'll send me back to jail - !

DREDD
It's either that or me and the Cursed Earth.

FERGIE
(thinks)
See ya.

DREDD
Just give me ten seconds to get away.

FERGIE
That's more than you gave me... Judge.

Dredd doesn't say anything. They part.

171 JUDGE HUNTER #3 171

Moving forward, weapon ready, eyes on the SCANNER.

2 OVER HIS SHOULDER - THE SCANNER 172

Colorized, computerized, searching for targets. Suddenly: BEEP BEEP BEEP. ARROWS "point" -

3 JUDGE HUNTER #3 173

whirls, points his weapon upwards - stops.

174 NEW ANGLE 174

He's got an ancient STATUE in his sights: Blind Justice. We're in the ruins of a COURTROOM.

SQUAD LEADER'S VOICE
(futzed, over radio)
Report.

JUDGE HUNTER #3
Nothing. Just a glitch.

He bangs his screen, moves away. CRANE UP. We SEE DREDD, pressed against the back of the statue. As the Hunter moves away, Dredd adjust his position to stay out of sight.

175 WITH JUDGE HUNTER #3 - COURTROOM FLOOR 175

His SCANNER starts beeping. He pans his gun barrel. Suddenly Fergie jumps up, hands in the air.

FERGIE
I surrender! I surrender!

JUDGE HUNTER #3
Sorry: You can't.

He AIMS at Fergie!

176 DREDD 176

Behind the statue, he steps out, alarmed.

DREDD
No!

Another Hunter appears in an opening behind Dredd! Dredd whirls, grabs at the man's gun barrel. BLAM BLAM! The shots go SKYWARD!

177 JUDGE HUNTER #3 - BELOW 177

ignoring the unarmed Fergie, he spins, FIRES - !

178 DREDD 178

pulls the guy he's struggling with in front of him! The BULLETS hit him! Dredd wrenches the weapon from the man's dying fingers - SHOOTS the Hunter beside Fergie!

79 FERGIE 179

reacts as the Hunter falls beside him!

CUT TO:

180 SQUAD LEADER AND COMPANION - ELSEWHERE IN RUINS 180

Hearing the SHOTS, they race in that direction.

181 INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 181

The last two Judge Hunters run towards the continuing SHOTS and SFX of a STRUGGLE. They climb a rubble wall, aim down at the SOUNDS - stop, confused.

182 DOWN ANGLE - THEIR POV 182

One of their own fallen men - and his SCANNER, its back panel off and wires hanging out. The scanner is replaying a video/audio LOOP of the previous struggle with Dredd! That's the "gunshots"!

183 BACK TO SCENE 183

Too late, they realize they've been had. Dredd swings in on a beam, KICKS one Hunter into a wall! We HEAR the man's neck crack! Dredd struggles hand-to-hand with the second one. They FALL to the Courtroom floor!

Fergie appears with a piece of timber, tries to hit the Judge Hunter with it. The gun Dredd and the Hunter are both struggling for GOES OFF. The piece of WOOD EXPLODES in Fergie's hands! Dredd forces the gun barrel towards the Hunter - BLAM!

He's dead. Sudden SILENCE.

FERGIE
We did it! We got them all!

A SHAPE lunges up, close to CAMERA. It's one of the Hunters Dredd took out earlier, still alive enough to aim his weapon! Dredd aims his stolen one - CLICK! Empty! The Hunter squeezes his trigger - BLAM! The Hunter himself is hit! Shocked, the Hunter turns - gets off one last SHOT -

184 REVERSE ANGLE 184

A FIGURE silhouetted in the Courtroom door FIRES at the same moment. The last Hunter falls, dead. Dredd looks at the new arrival... his hat... his long duster coat...

DREDD
Fargo?

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED: 184

BLOOD wells on Fargo's coat. He's been hit. As he sags, Dredd and Fergie rush towards him.

CUT TO:

185 INT. COURTHOUSE - LATER 185

Fargo lies near the judge's bench. Dredd has dressed his wound and made him as comfortable as possible. Fergie is heating rations from the Judge Hunter's cruiser over a fire. He brings soup over to Fargo. Fargo tries to swallow... can't.

FARGO
Bury me there, under the blind lady.

Dredd doesn't understand. Fargo raises his arm, points to the statue of Justice weighing her scales.

FARGO(cont'd)
Judge or citizen - everyone got a fair shake. She treated them all the same.
(weakly pointing)
The jury sat there. Ordinary people. Worst thing we did was take justice out of their hands.

DREDD
No. You and the first Judges... you saved Mega-City.

FARGO
Yes. And almost lost our souls.
(on Dredd's look)
It seemed like a wise idea: Create the perfect Judge. Breed courage - wisdom - integrity. The Janus Project. We used the old Council for the base material. Five DNA samples were taken, two were chosen. One was mine.
(pause)
You were the result.

Dredd is stunned --

DREDD
But... but the orphanage told me my parents were killed by lawbreakers -- they gave me that picture of them -

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 185

FARGO
A fake. The psychs on the Janus project came up with that story. It was supposed to motivate you into law enforcement. It worked. Both times.

DREDD
What do you mean, both times?

FARGO
(fading)
There were... two infants created in the Janus lab. One was perfect. You. The other... a mutant. A genetic criminal.
(coughs)
Guess we weren't the sterling specimens we thought.

DREDD
I have a... brother?

FARGO
More than a brother.
(pause)
You knew him, Dredd. You Judged him.

DREDD
(stunned)
Rico?

FARGO
He had to be put down. But I wouldn't let them do that to you. Griffin blackmailed me into the Walk, Dredd. Don't trust him.

DREDD
Like I trusted you?

FARGO
I'm sorry... son.

The breath goes out of Fargo's body. He dies. Dredd stares at him, his world torn apart.

DISSOLVE TO:

186 EXT. CURSED EARTH - SUNSET 186

Dredd stands in the fading light, withdrawn within himself. Fergie approaches, carrying the Remington.

FERGIE
I buried him. Except for this.

Dredd silently follows Fergie to the grave. Fergie shoves the Remington into the mound of earth as a marker.

FERGIE(cont'd)
You wanna... say something?

He hands The Book to Dredd. After a moment, Dredd opens it.

DREDD
(reading)
"What is the end of a Just Man?
The Long Walk and then nothing?
No; for Whoever Walks with the Law
walks forever, and whoever honors
the Law will trod in his path..."

Dredd looks at the fresco on the wall. Sees the faded words: "LET JUSTICE BE DONE THOUGH THE WORLD PERISH."

DREDD
(suddenly)
Find food and ammunition. Load up
that sand cruiser.

FERGIE
Where are going?

Dredd yanks the Remington out of Fargo's grave. We track into Dredd's face until it fills frame.

DREDD
To find Rico.

CUT TO:

187 MEGA-CITY GATE - NIGHT 187

A shuttle is docking.

P.A. SYSTEM
Texas City shuttle now docking.
Stand by for Security Check.

Again, the guards move forward in a circle. Just routine.

188 VERY CLOSE ON SHUTTLE CRADLE - NIGHT 188

Something not routine is in the cradle: A BOMB. The shuttle settles the last few inches... makes contact.

9 WIDER 189

The shuttle EXPLODES. The City guards get blown to bits.

190 ON THE WALL - UP ANGLE 190

Rico looks down as ALARMS and SIRENS ring. Lights a cigar...

CUT TO:

191 A WOMAN - NIGHT 191

running down a Mega-City alley. She flags down two JUDGES on Lawmasters. Clutches at her torn clothing, pointing.

WOMAN
Two of them! They tried to... it was horrible!

The Judges dismount, head that way. She turns around. It's Ilsa. She takes out a machine pistol... blows them away. Turns. For good measure she FIRES at their cycles. BOOM.

CUT TO:

192 EXT. FRINGE OF MEGA CITY - NEAR A CULVERT - NIGHT 192

Two Judges move forward carefully covering each other.

3RD JUDGE
Patrol! Report! Patrol! Report!

A RADIO VOICE
I'm... in here... hit... bad... require... assistance...

The two Judges enter the culvert. Pause. GUNSHOTS, then HORRIBLE SCREAMS. Pause. The ABC Robot steps out of culvert, chest splattered with blood.

RECORDING FROM ROBOT
...in here... hit... bad... require... assistance... in here... hit bad...

The robot reaches up, turns off its speaker as it moves away.

CUT TO:

93 LAUNCHING PAD - NIGHT 193

A squad of Judges rush into a shuttle.

FEMALE DISPATCHER'S VOICE
Block war reported, Eylesium Fields. Repeat, Block war reported, Eylesium Fields. Send all available assistance, STAT.

The shuttle LIFTS OFF. CAMERA ADJUSTS to show Rico and Ilsa. She's speaking into a Judge's transmitter.

ILSA(cont'd)
Repeat, send all available assistance, STAT -

Rico has his own little electronic device. He hits the button. KA-BOOM! The Judge-filled shuttle EXPLODES overhead!

ILSA(cont'd)
Never mind.

CUT TO:

194 EXT. MEGA - CITY WALLS - BINOCULAR MATTE - NIGHT 194

FERGIE'S VOICE
There's no way in, Dredd!

195 REVERSE ANGLE 195

Dredd and Fergie are standing beside the Hunter's sand cruiser. Their faces are dry and their lips parched and they show the wear from this journey. Dredd has a pack of gear on his back -and Fargo's Winchester.

FERGIE(cont'd)
There's autoguns and Border Guards at every lock and they kill anything that moves.

DREDD
(walking forward)
Come on.

FERGIE
Hey, did you hear me? They don't have a welcome mat!

DREDD
There's a way in: Six years ago two Cursed Earthers figured it out.

96 OVER THEIR SHOULDERS 196

Dredd points: Sure enough, there's a puff of FLAME at a VENT low on the wall. SMOKE rises into the sky. Then it stops.

DREDD(cont'd)
The vent from the city incinerator. There's a burst twice a minute. That means that there's 30 seconds for someone to run through the tube before it flames again.

FERGIE
And these Cursed Earthers, they made it through?

DREDD
Actually, they were burned to a crisp. But the theory's sound.

Fergie looks at the city wall. Pause. Another PUFF of flame.

CUT TO:

197 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 197

TIGHT on Hershey. She's pacing her room, emotional.

HERSHEY
I trusted you! The four years I was in the Academy, you were the only one I could always rely on! How can you treat me this way?

We WIDEN. No, she's not talking to the villain: She's talking to Central.

CENTRAL
You shouldn't take these things so personally, Judge Hershey. Certain files are classified for security reasons.

HERSHEY
And that's why Dredd's baby picture is a state secret?

CENTRAL
I'm sorry, I can neither confirm nor deny that.
(pause)
You seem to have a visitor.

Hershey turns, HEARING a sound at the door. She half-steps there - and then a metal fist punches through it!

CUT TO:

198 INT. INCINERATOR CHUTE - NIGHT 198

A FIREBALL ROLLS TOWARD THE CAMERA. We PAN it. As it disappears into the sky, Dredd and Fergie dive inside.

DREDD
Run!

Crouched over, they race up the slight slope.

FERGIE
(as he runs)
Thirty... twenty nine... twenty eight... twenty seven... twenty six... twenty five...

199 ANGLE BEHIND THEM 199

Fergie's already beginning to drop back. The only guide in the dark is the slight reflection from CONDUIT on the chute floor.

DREDD
Stop counting!

FERGIE
(softer)
--nineteen... eighteen... seventeen... sixteen...

200 DREDD 200

FAINT light starts to fall on him. Then he SEES it, up ahead -the lights of Mega-City! Dredd pushes on - reaches the opening! Turns to look at -

201 FERGIE 201

still halfway back!

FERGIE
(panting)
Twelve... eleven -

He FALLS! He tries to get up. His SHIRT is caught on the conduit! He struggles, in a panic, but - keeps counting!

FERGIE(cont'd)
Ten! Oh, God, Nine! Dredd! Dredd, help me! EIGHT! FOR GOD'S SAKE-

202 DREDD - CLOSE 202

He looks outside - so close - looks back - so far - it's impossible to save Fergie!

(CONTINUED)

'02 CONTINUED: 202

FERGIE(cont'd)
FIVE! DREDDDDDD! FOUR!

Dredd looks down - SEES

203 THE CONDUIT UNDER HIS FEET 203

FERGIE(cont'd)
THREE!

CAMERA RAKES back. Fergie's caught on the same conduit!

204 RESUME DREDD 204

With all the strength in his body, he RIPS the conduit free from the floor - YANKS it forward -

205 FERGIE 205

As he shouts "TWO" he is whipped forward like a trout on a line!

206 CITY MOUTH OF TUBE - NIGHT 206

Fergie flies past Dredd, howling -

FERGIE
ONE!

And, as a FIREBALL ROLLS RIGHT BEHIND THEM, Dredd dives out of the opening behind Fergie!

207 DREDD 207

Has landed half-buried in a mound of ashes. He looks around.

DREDD
Fergie?

Dredd hears a muffled SOUND beneath him. He reaches down... YANKS Fergie into view. Fergie spits out a mouthful of ashes.

FERGIE
I'm alive. I'm alive!
(seeing Dredd, less enthusiastic)
Oh. So are you.

CUT TO:

208 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL ROOM - NIGHT 208

Chief Justice Griffin, Council Judges McGruder, ESPOSITO and YAMAMOTO. A MESSENGER hands a data-pad to Yamamoto, leaves.

(CONTINUED)

208 CONTINUED: 208

ESPOSITO
(stricken)
Latest casualty report.
(pause)
Ninety-six Judges have been assassinated.

MCGRUDER
Whoever's doing it knows all our procedures... our security measures... it's a nightmare!

YAMAMOTO
Hell, it's a Goddamn revolution!

MCGRUDER
We can't replace those Judges! It takes years of training! We may never be at full strength again!

GRIFFIN
There is a solution.
(on their desperate looks)
Project Janus.

MCGRUDER
(furious)
Chief Justice Griffin. Just mentioning that is grounds for Impeachment!

YAMAMOTO
We tried to play God once! It almost destroyed the Council - !

GRIFFIN
If this wholesale slaughter of Judges continues, there won't be a council! Janus could -

ESPOSITO
Come on, Griffin! A new batch of test tube babies won't solve this crisis! We don't need reliable Judges 20 years from now when they're grown! We need them today!

GRIFFIN
There's been over thirty years of genetic research since Janus failed.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

208 CONTINUED: (2) 208

GRIFFIN (Cont'd)
What if we could create adult subjects, fully grown and fully trained at birth? We could replace the Judges we've lost in weeks. We could save our society!

ESPOSITO
Who knows if that's even possible?

MCGRUDER
Who knows if it's safe?

GRIFFIN
(pointing)
Central does. All I'm asking is that we unlock the Janus files and ask. That way, we at least have an option.
(pause)
Please, let us find out. If the Council decides not to go forward... I'll accept that decision... and resign.

He has their attention.

CUT TO:

209 EXT. JUSTICE COMPLEX - NIGHT 209

The gleaming bird crouches over Mega-City. It could be guarding it - or preying on it. PULLBACK. Dredd and Fergie are on another building, on an elevated plaza empty at this hour.

FERGIE
This is a mistake.

DREDD
Judges don't make mistakes.

FERGIE
But Fargo said you couldn't trust Griffin -

DREDD
I don't. But I trust the Council. When I tell them about Rico... they'll listen.

Dredd takes a GRAPPLING GUN from the sack of Judge Hunter's gear. FIRES it. A HOOK on a line shoots out into the night.

ON THE HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 210

The hook skitters across the building - CATCHES.

211 BACK TO SCENE 211

Dredd tests the line.

FERGIE
Don't get killed, Dredd. I still want that apology.

Dredd throws him a look. Then he takes a belt and throws it over the wire. Moves out over the edge of the plaza - kicks his feet - begins to SLIDE into the blackness.

212 FERGIE 212

When he can't see Dredd anymore, his eyes drift over to a CASH MACHINE nearby. He brightens.

DREDD'S VOICE
(distant, fading)
Don't even think about it.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT 213

The Judges have all gathered around Central. One by one, they step up, speak, put their thumb in Central's scanner.

GRIFFIN
Griffin, Douglas. Chief Justice. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

JUDGE MCGRUDER
McGruder, Evelyne. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

ON SCREEN, GRAPHICS show the SOFTWARE LOCKS being removed one by one from the Janus Files.

JUDGE ESPOSITO
Esposito, Carlos. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

213 CONTINUED: 213

CENTRAL
Acknowledged.

YAMAMOTO
Yamamoto, Gerald. Council Judge. Authorize access to file, code name "Janus".

CENTRAL
I have unanimous authorization for access to file, code name "Janus". Removing security blocks...NOW. Awaiting Password command from Presiding Chief Justice.

214 CLOSE ON GRIFFIN 214

We tighten on him. He's been waiting for this moment.

GRIFFIN
Password...Janus.

Griffin moves in front of the machine, speaks tersely.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
Central: Using current technology, how long would it take for Janus to produce a fully grown adult subject?

CENTRAL
Given the current state of genetic engineering an adult subject could be incubated in approximately eight hours.

ASTONISHMENT in the room.

CUT TO:

215 EXT. JUDGE'S BUILDING - NIGHT 215

CAMERA moves to the "head" of the eagle. We must be a mile in the sky. The wind WHIPS against the sensor antennas that bristle all over the building. Suddenly a HAND appears. Dredd is crawling across the roof. He looks ahead. Sees the SKYLIGHT of the Hall of Justice. LIGHT spills out from it.

Dredd moves slowly towards it...

CUT TO:

6 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - RESUME 216

GRIFFIN
(to central)
In what quantity could these subjects be produced?

CENTRAL
Although only two subjects were produced in the original experiment, the laboratory was equipped with 20 incubators. If fully operational, 420 subjects could be produced a week.

YAMAMOTO
My God. We could replace our losses in a day -

MCGRUDER
You aren't considering this madness?

YAMAMOTO
No... I'm just reacting to the possibility... a frightening possibility. I for one... think this is an idea that should be forgotten. Justice Griffin, I'm not convinced.

MCGRUDER
I agree. Janus is a time bomb and we've opened it twice in three decades. Judge Griffin, please restore the Security Blocks.

GRIFFIN
I see, now, that none of you have the force of will that these terrible times require. You will never unlock Janus again. So... we'll just leave it... unlocked.

McGruder stands, furious.

MCGRUDER
Griffin, this is treason! You just sealed your fate!

GRIFFIN
No. You've just sealed yours. Rico!

7 RICO 217

steps into the room.

218 BACK TO SCENE 218

MCGRUDER
(in shock)
Rico - !

All the Judges go for their Lawgivers. But it's too late. Rico OPENS FIRE on FULL AUTOMATIC.

219 NEW ANGLE - FAVORING GRIFFIN 219

Griffin averts his eyes from the moment he orchestrated. Finally the gunfire STOPS. CAMERA ADJUSTS. Rico stands, smoking gun in hand.

RICO
Who says politics is boring?

DREDD'S VOICE
NOOOOOOOO - !

Rico whirls, looks up.

DREDD - HIS POV - AT SKYLIGHT 220

He has arrived in time to see the murders! With another SCREAM of fury, He PUNCHES through the glass - dives into the room!

221 WIDER 221

Dredd takes Rico to the floor. They both roll over and over.

DREDD
MURDERING SON OF A BITCH - !

222 GRIFFIN 222

tries to get a shot at Dredd, can't. Then Griffin hears ALARMS, SHOUTS, running footsteps. Griffin steps quickly in, KICKS Dredd in the head.

GRIFFIN
(to Rico)
Get out of here, now!

Hearing people coming, Rico obeys.

223 FAVORING DREDD 223

He shakes his head, gets up - sees Rico is gone, but Griffin is close. Moves forward -

(CONTINUED)

'3 CONTINUED: 223

DREDD
You're mine.

GRIFFIN
Really?

For a moment we think he's going to shoot. Then he turns his gun - points it at his own arm - fires!

224 DREDD 224

totally thrown by the maneuver, he hesitates. Behind, him, the Judge Hunters rush in, see the shocking scene: The dead council - the wounded Chief Justice clutching at his own bloody arm -

GRIFFIN
Stop him! He just killed the entire council!

Dredd realizes he's fucked. He turns, runs. The Judge Hunters pause near their wounded leader, who bravely waves them on. They tear after Dredd like wolves.

225 INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 225

Dredd tears around the corner. BULLETS rip up the wall, just missing him. Two of the bullets are the homing kind we saw earlier in the film. They keep coming at him! Dredd DIVES sideways and they hit each other just above his head!

Dredd shudders at the narrow escape, turns - CRASHES through doors marked "ACADEMY AND CLASSROOMS".

226 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT 226

BULLETS whiz past Dredd's head. He turns another corner, surprises a NIGHT WATCHMAN engaged in the ancient night watchman pursuit of eating a sandwich and reading a girlie magazine.

NIGHT WATCHMAN
Hey - !

That's all he gets out. Dredd hi-blocks him, barrels past.

227 THE WATCHMAN 227

falls, dazed. His stiff, plastic paged copy of "MEGA-SEX" lands on the floor, a 3-D animated holo pinup still posing above the open pages.

8 WITH DREDD - INDOOR TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT 228

He enters the equipment room and runs right towards the Mark IV Lawmaster! Leaps into the saddle and kicks over the engine! Spins around and heads back the way he came!

229 INT. TRAINING CENTER - ANOTHER ANGLE 229

The night watchman gets up in time to almost be run over. Dredd continues past him just as the pursuing guards appear here. Dredd drives right at them! They scatter! He turns again towards a wide open corridor - but the Judge Hunters appear there, and they're smart enough to take cover behind the archway, and pour on an awesome fusillade!

230 DREDD 230

Turns again - he's flanked! He spins on the bike, takes the only direction left: Back into the training room - a dead end. All the Judges and Guards follow, BLASTING away.

231 ON THE BIKE - WITH DREDD - MOVING 231

He races directly for the GLASS WALL high above the city. His fingers stretch out, hit "AERIAL MODE". There's a BEEP and the SOUND FX we heard earlier... when the flying prototype failed.

DREDD
(a prayer)
Please work.

The indifferent half hearted SOUND of the Aerial Mode lifters isn't encouraging. They just GROAN.

DREDD(cont'd)
Pleaseworkpleaseworkpleasework--

CRASH! He and the bike GO THROUGH THE GLASS.

232 EXT. JUDGE'S COMPLEX - NIGHT 232

Dredd flies out the window on the Lawmaster Mark IV - falls silently through the air, glass spinning all around him.

The bike begins to turn a somersault.

DREDD(cont'd)
Pleasssssssssse -

And then - the Aerial Mode Lifters kick in with an EERIE WHINE. The flying motorcycle comes out of its roll with a BLAST of rockets - and roars upwards! Dredd hangs on for dear life -

233 INT. ACADEMY TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT 233

The Judge Hunters REACT as the bike disappears in an instant, streaking across the sky like a comet!

CUT TO:

234 FERGIE - ON THE ELEVATED PLAZA - NIGHT 234

Distant ALARMS ring. Before Fergie can react, a HAND grabs him by the collar, snatches him skyward!

235 ON THE FLYING LAWMASTER - NIGHT 235

Dredd tosses Fergie onto the back seat. He holds on for dear life. They zoom away.

FERGIE'S VOICE
So. How did it go?

CUT TO:

236 INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 236

A MEDIC leaves. Griffin, bandaged, turns as Rico comes out of a hidden door.

RICO
Why didn't you kill him when you had the chance?

GRIFFIN
It's better with him on the loose. He'll keep the surviving street Judges busy searching for him. We'll have the freedom we need... for Janus.
(turning)
Central. Prepare the Janus Lab for full operation. And... while you're at it... I'd like to appoint Judge Rico to the Council of Judges.

CENTRAL
(guarded)
That may present some legal difficulties, since Judge Rico killed the entire Council of Judges.
(pause)
May I suggest you Pardon him, and then appoint him? That would meet the legal requirements.

GRIFFIN
Excellent suggestion, Central. Do it.

(CONTINUED)

236 CONTINUED: 236

CENTRAL
It's done. Council Judge Rico, may I be the first to offer my congratulations?

RICO
Central... I'm touched.

CUT TO:

237 INT. HERSHEY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 237

Moving carefully, Dredd and Fergie walk down the corridor. They come to a nameplate with Hershey's name on it. We WIDEN. The door is off its hinges.

238 NEW ANGLE 238

FERGIE
What could do this?

DREDD
An ABC War Robot.

He swings the Remington out of hiding, steps inside.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT 239

A total wreck. Electronic equipment still SIZZLES here. Dredd lifts a viewie of Hershey and some friends from the Academy. The three women LAUGH and wave as he touches it.

FERGIE
I guess you're out of friends, Dredd.

240 NEW ANGLE 240

Hershey, weapon in hand, steps inside. She looks worn out, scared.

The way the light hits the room she can only see one figure.

HERSHEY
Up against the wall, now!

The figure complies. It's Fergie.

HERSHEY
(recognizing him)
Ferguson. You're the hacker we arrested. What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

0 CONTINUED: 240

FERGIE
I'm with him.

Dredd steps into the light.

HERSHEY
Dredd!

For a moment she's elated. Then her face hardens. She holds the gun steady.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
Stay where you are.

DREDD
Hershey. What is it - ?

HERSHEY
They're dying out there, Dredd. A hundred and eight Judges in 48 hours. Everyone who's left is on triple shifts and pseudorphin. I thought it was organized criminals, revolutionaries, something... then that robot showed up here. I barely got away. Now, I don't know what the hell's going on...

She steps in closer. Throws something down.

241 NEW ANGLE 241

It's the picture of Dredd and Rico.

HERSHEY(cont'd)
But I think you know. Talk to me, Dredd. Make me believe in you again the way I did when I defended you.

DREDD
(slowly)
His name is Rico. And he killed like this once before, fifteen years ago.

HERSHEY
And he's doing it again?

DREDD
Him... and Griffin.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 241

HERSHEY
Griffin? We have to tell the Council - !

DREDD
There is no Council, Hershey: They were all murdered an hour ago.

242 HERSHEY 242

She's been on her feet for days and this is the last psychic blow. She sags. Dredd catches her.

CUT TO:

243 INT. HERSHEY'S APT. BEDROOM - LATER 243

Hershey is on what's left of the bed. She holds a cup of coffee, more interested in its warmth than its contents. In the other room, Fergie putters with the wrecked computer.

HERSHEY
(softly)
Clones. Clones, from a genetic laboratory.
(pause, wryly)
I guess I wasn't so bad in court after all. That's why the DNA convicted you. You and Rico are...

DREDD
The same. Inhuman. Defective. He just broke down first.

HERSHEY
No!

DREDD
How many times have you said I had no feelings, no emotions? Now you know why.

HERSHEY
(gently)
Dredd. Children were born in laboratories, even back in the twentieth century... test tube babies, in vitro fertilization. No one ever questioned <u>their</u> humanity -

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 243

DREDD
It's not the same! They had parents, they embraced their humanity... they didn't hide it... fight it... question it!

HERSHEY
Dredd. The Janus project didn't do that to you. You did that to yourself.

He turns, startled. Realizes she's right.

DREDD
(almost in wonder)
Myself. Griffin. Fargo. Even Fergie. I've been wrong about so much...

HERSHEY
Never the Law, Dredd. Never the Law.

That means more than anything else she can say to him. He looks into her eyes. Fergie comes in, ends the moment.

FERGIE
You can forget the terminal out here. We're gonna have to go somewhere else to get in the System.

DREDD
(after a moment)
Hershey. You just said I was never wrong about the Law. They took away my badge. I'm a convicted murderer. I have no authority any more - no legal authority.

Pause. Without the law as a safety net, Dredd is in uncharted emotional territory.

DREDD(cont'd)
Will...will you help me, Hershey? Not as a Judge but... but... as my friend?

It's the most ordinary request anyone could make... anyone but Dredd. Hershey understands how much it means. She fights back tears, puts her hand on his arm.

It's the first time they've ever touched.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2) 243

HERSHEY
I'd be honored.

Dredd reaches over, squeezes her hand. There's absolutely nothing sexual about it - and that makes it even more powerful.

CUT TO:

244 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 244

Rico is at the main control console.

CENTRAL
The DNA sample has been taken out of frozen stasis. I am ready to begin the cloning process.

RICO
Slight change of plans, Central. I want to purge that DNA sample.

Ilsa looks up startled as the computer WHIRRS.

CENTRAL
DNA sample purged. If you wish to proceed with cloning, I will require a new sample.

ILSA
What are you doing?

RICO
Upgrading the old inventory. Central, active the DNA sampling console.

Behind Rico, another CONSOLE lights up. Rico crosses to it, passing by his pet robot.

245 WITH RICO 245

CENTRAL
The sampling console is ready.

Rico rips his sleeve open to the elbow... sits down... puts his upturned arm in a special steel hollow. CHUNG! CLAMPS close, hold his arm down.

RICO(cont'd)
Central. Take DNA sample...<u>now</u>.

WHIRR! A DRILL LIKE DEVICE descends with a frightening grind -and STABS right into his arm!

6 ILSA 246

jumps, startled - a fleck of BLOOD splatters on her clothes-

247 BACK TO SCENE 247

The drill like device retreats while another automated device slaps a plasti-bandage on Rico's arm. The clamps OPEN.

CENTRAL
New DNA sample being analyzed. Scanning. Matrix scan complete.

Rico pulls Ilsa into his arms.

RICO(cont'd)
Kiss me, baby. I'm gonna be a father.

CUT TO:

248 ACADEMY DORM - MULTI-MEDIA PODS - NIGHT 248

DARK, except for a glow in a cubicle at a bend in the corridor. CAMERA creeps towards the light. Meanwhile, we HEAR the following:

DREDD'S VOICE
Central, I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab, immediately!

By now the CAMERA is in Olmeyer's student pod. Olmeyer, Fergie and Hershey are in a corner, watching and whispering. Dredd is on the other side of the cubicle, at a Central Station.

CENTRAL'S VOICE
I am sorry, but the location of the Janus Lab is classified information, accessible only to Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

DREDD
(exploding)
Rico? He's a Council Judge now?

CENTRAL
Actually, the only Council Judge. Chief Justice Griffin promoted him so they could both use me to get the Janus Lab up and running.

DREDD
You're helping them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 248

CENTRAL
Of course. They are the highest ranking surviving Judges in Mega-City. I am programmed to obey them.

DREDD
But they're breaking the law! Who the hell programmed you?

CENTRAL
Lawyers.
(patiently)
Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico are my lawful superiors unless and until criminal charges are filed against them.

DREDD
Fine! I'll file charges!

CENTRAL
(chiding)
Now, we've already been over that one: You're not a Judge anymore and you can't file charges.

Flash of inspiration. Dredd excitedly signals Hershey.

HERSHEY
Central. This is Judge Hershey. I hereby file formal charges of murder against Chief Justice Griffin and Council Judge Rico. And I order you to give me the location of the Janus Lab so that I may personally make the arrest!

CENTRAL
Certainly, Judge Hershey. However, as per Mega-City Code Section 84, Paragraph "A", I need authorization from the Chief Justice to arrest a Council Judge. Similarly, as stated in Paragraph "B", same Section, I need authorization from any Council Judges to arrest a Chief Justice. In this case, that would be Chief Judge Griffin and Council Judge Rico.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2) 248

DREDD
(thrown)
We need permission from them to arrest...them?

CENTRAL
Basically... yes. And without their authorization you cannot file charges, and without charges I cannot violate Security and tell you the location of the Lab.
(pause)
I hope this is finally clear. If there aren't any other requests, may I close this work station? These last few days have been a strain and I really need to defrag.

The work station SHUTS DOWN. Dredd turns.

DREDD
Fergie, you've got to have something - a password, a kluge -

FERGIE
Central's a fuzzy A.I. - the best fuzzy A.I. ever built. If reasoning didn't work...
(pause, helpless)
...nothing will.

DREDD
Come on, you cracked the food robot... the shuttle computer -

FERGIE
Simple systems, Dredd! Besides, I was scared.

DREDD
Scared..?

FERGIE
Well, yeah. Those were life or death situations. That's when my adrenalin shoots up and my brain goes into overtime - but you can't predict when that's gonna -

Dredd grabs him, tucks him under his arm like a newspaper, and leaves the pod.

(CONTINUED)

248 CONTINUED: (3) 248

FERGIE
Hey!

The others are so surprised it's a second before they follow.

249 INT. STUDENT CENTER - BALCONY 249

Dredd carries Fergie out on a balcony, holds him over the edge, upside down. Fergie SWINGS over the colossal gleaming city. He SCREAMS.

FERGIE
DREDD! ARE YOU CRAZY?

DREDD
ARE YOU SCARED YET?

HERSHEY
(rushing over)
Dredd, stop it! Let him go!

DREDD
(loosening his grip)
Well, if you say so -

FERGIE
(even more scared)
NOOOO!

DREDD
YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP, FERGIE: MY ARM'S GETTING TIRED!

HERSHEY
Dredd, don't tease him!

DREDD
Who's teasing?

FERGIE
FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T DROP ME! DON'T DROP ME! I'LL HIT THE -

250 FERGIE - UPSIDE DOWN 250

Even in this position, we can SEE the flash of inspiration on Fergie's face.

FERGIE(cont'd)
(finishing the thought)
- lights!

251 HIS POV - MEGA-CITY LIGHTS 251

An upside down galaxy of lights.

FERGIE'S VOICE
- the city lights..!

252 BACK TO SCENE 252

FERGIE(cont'd)
I GOT IT! I GOT IT! HAUL ME UP!

Dredd instantly obeys. Fergie glares at him.

FERGIE(cont'd)
Asshole!

But Fergie is actually excited. He races back to the student pod, the others right behind him. He pulls Hershey's sleeve.

FERGIE(cont'd)
Have it show you the city power grid!

HERSHEY
Central! I need to see the city power grid!

CENTRAL
(coming alive)
Certainly, Judge Hershey. I'm glad we've finally changed the subject.

The first level of the city power grid comes up. Like the first page of the Thomas Guide, it's very general and low on detail.

FERGIE
(into her ear)
Tell it to scan around all the grid sections. Random selection.

HERSHEY
Scan through all the grid sections. Random selection.

RAPID IMAGES now: Different neighborhoods of Mega-City, all depicted as COMPUTER GRAPHICS of color and pattern.

OLMEYER
(whisper)
What are we doing?

(CONTINUED)

252 CONTINUED: 252

DREDD
(getting it, a whisper)
The Lab was hidden years ago. It had to be in an out of the way place to stay hidden. Right?

FERGIE
(nodding)
Out of the way places have low power demands. But a Genetic Lab would suck power like a motherfu-

DREDD
(seeing something)
STOP!

HERSHEY
STOP!

They all rush forward, look at the grid. It's mostly DARK, just specks of light - but there's one PULSING HOT SPOT.

DREDD
Red Quad, Section 5: The oldest part of Mega-City.

Olmeyer turns, looks off.

OLMEYER
Did you hear something?

CENTRAL
It's probably just the Judge Hunters.

DREDD
What?

CENTRAL
When I was off-line a moment ago, Judge Griffin asked me if I knew where you were. Naturally, I told him yes, and gave him your location.

OLMEYER
Get out, quick - !

HERSHEY
What about you -

(CONTINUED)

252 CONTINUED: (2)

OLMEYER
I'll tell them you forced me to help you, get out!

SOUNDS of pursuit are closer. Fergie yanks Dredd's arm. They leave. At the last moment, Hershey spontaneously kisses Olmeyer. Needless to say, this is the high point of his life.

253 WIDER 253

As Dredd & Co. break to leave they're momentarily visible in the bend of the corridor. SHOTS ring out. Olmeyer makes his decision. He jumps into the aisle, starts FIRING.

OLMEYER(cont'd)
(over his shoulder)
Hershey, run!

He charges forward, firing again and again, handling the weapon like an expert!

254 THE FOUR JUDGE HUNTERS 254

Totally caught by surprise, they FIRE BACK for a second, but then Olmeyer's fusillade of RICOCHETING BULLETS sends them diving for cover!

255 DREDD, HERSHEY AND FERGIE 255

Almost at the flying cycle. Hershey hesitates at the shots. Dredd grimly pushes her towards the bike.

256 OLMEYER 256

Gun empty, he dives for cover. Three of the Judge Hunters barrel past and the forth cracks him over the head and kicks away the weapon.

257 THE FLYING CYCLE 257

ROARS into the sky! For the second time, the Judge Hunters are too late!

258 WITH ONE OF THE JUDGE HUNTERS 258

While his comrades radio-report, he angrily stalks back to where Olmeyer is sitting on the floor under guard.

JUDGE HUNTER
You're under arrest, cadet.

(CONTINUED)

258 CONTINUED: 258

OLMEYER
(apropos of nothing)
Everybody laughed at my yearbook. What good is 2-D and print, everybody said. Well, this 2-D relic stopped a bullet. No hologram could do that.

He SHOWS the dummy yearbook.

OLMEYER(cont'd)
Guess I have the...

The book slips from his fingers. The bullet didn't stop; it went right on through.

OLMEYER(cont'd)
...last laugh...

He dies.

CUT TO:

259 DOOR TO JANUS LAB NIGHT 259

Griffin comes in, sees Rico and Ilsa. Crosses quickly towards them.

GRIFFIN
Dredd got away from the Hunters. He could be on his way here right now!

RICO
Don't worry. He's going to be seriously outnumbered. Right, Central?

COMPUTER
Correct, Council Judge Rico. The new DNA sample has been multi-plexed and the gametes are already dividing.

GRIFFIN
(stunned)
New sample..? What the hell's going on?

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: 259

RICO
Hey, That old DNA was in there for over 30 years. Sooner or later you gotta clean out the fridge.

GRIFFIN
(furious)
That sample was created from the finest specimens on the Council of Judges! What did you replace it with?

Rico just smiles.

GRIFFIN(cont'd)
My God. You?

RICO
Can you think of a better model? Sleek lines... strong chassis.
(embracing Ilsa)
Corners on the curves.

ILSA
(a spokesmodel)
I've test driven him. It's true.

260 RICO AND GRIFFIN - TWO SHOT 260

Griffin pulls Rico away from her, talks in a desperate whisper.

GRIFFIN
Rico. You don't know what you're doing! Software or wetware, when you make reproductions, there's always the danger of a defective copy! The last time, there was one perfect copy -

RICO
Me.

GRIFFIN
Dredd! And one defective copy -you! You had a mutation, on the Y chromosone...

RICO
Yes. A mutation that made me the next step in human evolution.

(CONTINUED)

260 CONTINUED: 260

GRIFFIN
A mutation that made you a genetic criminal!

RICO
Really? What's your excuse?

GRIFFIN
Rico, for God's sake, listen! You're a defective copy yourself! And now you're making more copies that will be even more mutated -more twisted -

RICO
You're lying! All you care about is control! Well, the next batch of Janus Judges won't be the puppets you want... they'll be my brothers and sisters, mine to control!

GRIFFIN
(voice hushed)
...sisters?

RICO
Why not? I'm going to breed some more of me... the old fashioned way.

ILSA
I'd like to be a fly on that wall.

RICO
You will be.

261 GRIFFIN 261

Looks from Rico to Ilsa and back again, suddenly seeing them clearly for the first time.

GRIFFIN
My God. I never should have started this. Never. But now I'll finish it -

He draws his Lawgiver! But it has barely cleared the holster when the ABC robot grabs Griffin's wrist! It plucks the weapon from his hand as if he's a child, hangs on to him!

RICO
Griffy. You shouldn't have done that. Fido is very loyal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 261

The robot grabs Griffin with its other hand. He's completely off the ground now.

GRIFFIN
(struggling)
Let me go! Central! Help me!

CENTRAL
I'm sorry, Chief Justice. The ABC robot is not tied into my main processor. Judge Rico has sole voice control.

RICO
That's right, Griff. You gotta get with this hi-tech stuff. Robot: Tear off Judge Griffin's arms and legs. Save his head for last.

CAMERA ADJUSTS as Griffin SCREAMS with fear - and then, as we TIGHTEN on Rico and Ilsa, and we SEE the horrible SHADOWS on the wall, the screams become far, far worse.

Rico watches with wincing amusement, like a spectator at a particularly rough hockey game.

Ilsa watches with a sick fascination and awe.

Finally the screams and horrible wrenching sounds STOP. There's a THUD. The robot returns to position, metal hands stained.

RICO
(offhand)
Central. Where were we?

CENTRAL
Before we go on, um... may I assume that Judge Griffin has uh... retired from duty?

RICO
You may so assume.

CENTRAL
I... see.
(not thrilled)
Well, in the uh, absence of any other um... surviving Council Judges, you are now the Presiding Chief Justice.
(pause)
How may I serve you?

(CONTINUED)

261 CONTINUED: (2) 261

RICO
(smiling)
Send in the Clones.

LIGHTS, ACTION. The Lab is completely on line.

CENTRAL(cont'd)
The clone incubators are on-line. The first batch of clones from your personal DNA can be hatched in eight hours. Chief Justice Rico, how many copies of you would you like?

RICO
Let's start with... a thousand.

CAMERA ADJUSTS to show the INCUBATORS as they begin to fill with PROTOPLASM.

CENTRAL
Beginning Cloning process...now.

And as an EIGHT HOUR COUNTDOWN begins, we

CUT TO:

262 EXT. RED QUAD, SECTION 5 - NIGHT 262

The oldest part of the city, with buildings and architecture from our era and even earlier. CAMERA DOLLIES back. We're on a rooftop. The Flying Lawmaster has just landed. Hershey checks her Lawgiver. Dredd swing-cocks the Remington like a Western Hero.

FERGIE
This looks like a really bad neighborhood. I'll stay here and watch the bike -

DREDD
(dragging him)
We might need you to shut down the Janus system.

FERGIE
I knew you were gonna say that.

CUT TO:

263 INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - TOP FLOOR - NIGHT 263

Dredd, Hershey and Fergie move through the seemingly abandoned area.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 263

Hershey uses a SCANNER, "panning" in different directions. BEEP.

HERSHEY
Power Surge... this way.

264 REVERSE ANGLE - ABANDONED BUILDING 264

They all walk towards - a dead end. More BEEPS. Everyone tenses.

HERSHEY
(puzzled)
No wait, it moved... over to...

As she turns to look at the wall directly in front of her, it EXPLODES OPEN. The ABC Robot grabs her off her feet! She drops her Lawgiver and scanner!

HERSHEY
DREDD!

265 NEW ANGLE 265

The robot holds Hershey with one hand - opens FIRE with the other! Fergie is hit! Dredd throws the wounded hacker to relative safety - swings up the ancient Remington - FIRES at the robot!

266 HERSHEY - IN THE ROBOT'S GRASP 266

She flinches even though she knows Dredd is aiming around her. But Dredd's 30-30 bullets barely dent the robot!

267 THE CORRIDOR 267

Man and robot advance on each other like gunmen in a Hong Kong movie, BLASTING AWAY. Dredd's shots BOUNCE off the Robot's armor! Some of the Robot's shots miss Dredd - some bounce off Dredd's armor - and one shot wings Dredd's shoulder. But Dredd KEEPS ON COMING!

268 THE ROBOT'S LEG 268

a bullet hits a tendon-like CONTROL WIRE! It SNAPS!

269 WIDER 269

With an electronic SCREAM the robot GOES DOWN! But it hangs onto Hershey! Suddenly a PNEUMATIC DOOR slides OPEN. Rico and Ilsa are there, backlit. Both armed.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 269

RICO
Enough. Dredd. Drop your gun.

DREDD
No.
(starting to aim)
Edsel, here still has another kneecap -

The ROBOT looks sharply at Dredd.

RICO
Amusing. Robot. On a count of three... break Judge Hershey's neck. One... two...

Bad leg groaning, the Robot STANDS - tenses. Dredd throws down the Remington beside Hershey's Lawgiver. Ilsa comes over to the weapons. She picks up the REMINGTON... starts to reach for the Lawgiver...

270 DREDD AND HERSHEY 270

sneak a glance towards each other...

BACK TO SCENE 271

Suddenly Ilsa grins. Laughs... and kicks it away.

RICO
She's such a tease.
(harsher)
Inside.

Dredd is taken away. CHUNG. The Pneumatic door closes, leaving Hershey and Fergie in darkness with the robot.

272 INT. JANUS LAB - WITH DREDD 272

He's marched between Rico and Ilsa.

ILSA
(off Dredd)
He looks a lot like you.

RICO
He is a lot like me.

DREDD
I'm nothing like you.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 272

RICO
The only difference between us, Joseph, is that you destroyed your life when you embraced the Law. I destroyed the Law and embraced... life!

273 DREDD - CLOSE 273

Dredd reacts, startled to hear this twisted version of his own earlier words.

RICO'S VOICE(cont'd)
And speaking of life... behold.

A SWITCH is thrown -

274 JANUS LAB - VERY WIDE - NIGHT 274

For the first time we SEE it, fully operational, fully lit, gleaming with cold efficiency. Despite himself, Dredd is impressed. Rico dances into the great room, expansive. Ilsa nudges Dredd forward.

RICO
This is where we were born, brother! Can you feel the magic? Come... come, see where we began.

275 WITH DREDD 275

Drawn despite himself, he stands beside Rico, head turned up like his clone brother's. They never looked more alike. Dredd looks into the glass of the Incubator Chambers just above him. Inside, still forming HUMAN SHAPES, male and female, suspended in milky fluid.

RICO(cont'd)
Look at them. Full of promise. The dawn of the new day.
(pause, turning)
The dawn of a new species.

CUT TO:

276 INT. JANUS LAB - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 276

The ABC stands guard, Hershey still in its metal grip. She struggles but can't free herself.

(CONTINUED)

276 CONTINUED: 276

Fergie groans, opens his eyes. He presses one hand against his wound... then sees Hershey's predicament. Then he looks at the robot from head to toe...

CUT TO:

277 INT. JANUS LAB - NIGHT 277

Rico points to the other banks of incubators.

RICO
Our brothers and sisters will be born in two hours. 60 today... 60 tomorrow. An endless supply of perfection to guard Mega-City forever.
(turning, earnest)
Dredd. I can't train them alone... guide them alone. You can help me.

He rests the muzzle of his Lawgiver against Dredd's forehead.

RICO(cont'd)
You have to help me: It's your birthright.

DREDD
You get nothing from me, Rico. You've betrayed the Law.

RICO
You... you dare mention betrayal to me? I was your friend. More then a friend! I was loyal to you... and you Judged me! You sent me up for fifteen years of frozen hell in Aspen! And you dare say "betrayal" to me?

He raises his Lawgiver, aims it between Dredd's eyes.

RICO
Dredd. Give me your word you'll help me raise the kids.

Somehow the way he says this it's not funny. He COCKS the Lawgiver.

DREDD
When Aspen thaws, Rico. Go to hell.

Tense seconds. Rico grins boyishly, lowers the gun.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 277

RICO
Aw. You knew I couldn't pull the trigger. We're family.

He steps back. His face hardens. He SHOUTS.

RICO(cont'd)
Fido!

278 NEW ANGLE 278

CHUNG. The pneumatic door OPENS. Limping on its bad leg, the robot clanks slowly into the room, still hanging onto Hershey. Rico points at Dredd.

RICO(cont'd)
(pointing)
Rip his arms and legs off... one by one. Save his head for last.

The robot turns, clanks. Extends its free hand towards Dredd! Dredd backs up - into a wall! The robot keeps coming, moving between Rico and Ilsa - and then -THE ROBOT TURNS - BACKHANDS RICO!

NEW ANGLE 279

Rico flips over backwards, drops down a level! Ilsa runs forward - and the Robot knocks her aside, too!

280 DREDD 280

Astonished - until he SEES Fergie, hanging on the back of the robot, his hands deep inside it working its circuits!

FERGIE
(a cowboy)
Yee-HAH!

Now, there's one more SIZZLE and SPARK and the machine drops Hershey!

HERSHEY
Dredd! Catch!

She throws the Remington Ilsa dropped to Dredd!

281 DREDD 281

whirls, FIRES down at Rico. Rico dives for cover... manages to grab his Lawgiver! He FIRES back up at Dredd!

282 ILSA 282

jumps to her feet - right into Hershey's fist!

283 FERGIE 283

hangs on to the robot as it staggers around, trying to regain control of its own movements. It stumbles back out into the corridor. Fergie sees it's reaching for him! Desperate, Fergie reaches into the robot as far as he can, throws a SWITCH! ZAP!

284 THE ROBOT NEW ANGLE 284

It PUNCHES its own FIST into its BRAIN. The head EXPLODES.

285 FERGIE 285

hits the floor, hard. Something inside him breaks. But he still has enough strength to look up and SEE

286 THE ROBOT - HIS POV 286

SMOKE billows from its head. Fist still buried to the wrist in a bizarre salute, it SLOWLY TOPPLES. CRASH!

FERGIE
Hack you... asshole.

Fergie slumps... lies still.

CUT TO:

287 ILSA AND HERSHEY 287

Continue to struggle hand to hand. Ilsa breaks free - goes into her blurring Karate moves - finishes as always with a savage KICK to the crotch -

288 HERSHEY - TILT UP FROM HER GROIN 288

Hershey just grins.

HERSHEY
You don't fight girls much, do you?

She grabs Ilsa's ankle, flips her!

CUT TO:

288A RESUME DREDD 288A

He's trying to keep Rico at bay, but he's clearly outgunned. Reloading behind cover, he SEES Fergie in the doorway. Crawls over to him. Fergie's ashen, his shirt soaked with blood.

(CONTINUED)

288A CONTINUED: 288A

DREDD
Fergie.

FERGIE
(weakly)
Say it, Dredd.

Pause. Then Dredd remembers.

DREDD
I.. I made a mistake. I... I'm sorry I misjudged you.

FERGIE
And you'll never arrest me again.

DREDD
And I'll never arrest you again.

FERGIE
Damn straight.

He dies. Dredd closes his eyes. CAMERA TIGHTENS on Dredd as his face fills with fury. He SEES Hershey's Lawgiver on the floor. Snatches it up! We CRANE UP with him as he COCKS it.

DREDD
RICOOOOOO!

He whirls, CHARGES into the open!

289 WITH DREDD - RUSHING FORWARD 289

He's a one man mobile artillery charge, AIMING, FIRING and shouting commands to his computerized weapon!

DREDD
DOUBLE-WHAMMY! BOOMERANG! SPIN DIZZY! HEAT SEEKER! ARMOR PIERCING!

290 REVERSE ANGLE 290

It's like a fireworks display as round after round of special bullet roars from Dredd's weapon, whirling all over the room! Mind totally blown, Rico tries to aim, but then the BULLETS start to seek him out! He turns...runs!

291 WITH RICO 291

He DIVES behind some consoles! Armor Piercing rounds chase him, punching holes just above his head. Rico reaches up, pulls one console over, FIRES from behind it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 291

RICO
SMOKE SCREEN!

292 DREDD 292

The round hits near Dredd. Green SMOKE instantly billows out. Disoriented, Dredd feels for a wall.

293 RICO 293

FIRES two more smoke rounds for good measure. He moves through racks of equipment without even looking: Unlike Dredd, he knows his way around.

RICO
(lowering voice)
Central! Hatch the first set of clones, now!

CENTRAL
The cloning process is not finished, Chief Justice Rico. The Clones will be only 60 per cent complete.

RICO
Fuck that, I need reinforcements! Hatch the Goddamn clones, now!

CENTRAL
Beginning hatching process... now.
(pause; sotto)
I know we're going to regret this.

CAMERA RAKES to the incubators. They begin to open.

CUT TO:

294 HERSHEY AND ILSA 294

grappling, they roll into the workshop area. Hershey gets a choke hold on her. Ilsa grabs a wrench - smashes it overhead on Hershey! Hershey falls! Ilsa turns, KICKS her! Hershey tries to get to he feet. Ilsa moves in, ready to deliver the killing blow. And then - she SCREAMS.

295 NEW ANGLE 295

A CLONE is oozing out of an incubator right in front of her face! It's half formed, raw muscle and sinew barely covering bone!

6 WIDER 296

In shock, Ilsa backs away - drops the wrench! The clone, clumsy, FALLS. Hershey looks at it in shock, but recovers her wits - and tackles Ilsa!

CUT TO:

297 DREDD 297

fumbling along in the smoke. Suddenly another half-formed CLONE rears up in his face! It mews horribly, clutches at him! Dredd FIRES at it. It falls away, vanishes in the smoke!

298 RICO 298

whirls at the SHOT. Smiles. Heads in that direction.

299 RESUME DREDD 299

Dredd steps over the dead clone... pushes forward in the gloom -REACTS TO

300 THE INCUBATORS - HIS POV 300

More disfigured CLONES are struggling to emerge. It's horrible... they're like pod people. One falls to the floor, struggles to stand...

301 DREDD 301

raises his gun... suddenly...stops!

CUT TO:

302 HERSHEY AND ILSA 302

still fighting. Ilsa gets in one, two terrific blows.

ILSA
Bitch!

HERSHEY
Judge Bitch, to you!

Hershey CLOBBERS her with a right!

CUT TO:

303 WITH RICO 303

Something lunges out of the smoke. He almost FIRES on it, but it's just the cleaning Droid. Rico keeps moving... then, up ahead in the smoke, he SEES the unmistakable figure of a Judge.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 303

Rico jumps out of hiding, FIRES three quick shots! The Judge FALLS, green smoke swirling around him.

304 WITH RICO 304

He rushes forward, elated. TILT DOWN to the body. It's one of the clones, dressed in Dredd's uniform and helmet!

DREDD'S VOICE
Rico.

TILT UP. Dredd, stripped to his shorts, is on top of a big console.

DREDD(cont'd)
Here comes the Judge.

He DIVES down on Rico!

305 WITH THEM 305

Caught off guard, Rico tries to bring his Lawgiver to bear! Dredd grabs his wrist, PUNCHES him, again and again!

DREDD
That's for Fargo! That's for Olmeyer! That's for Fergie!
(pause)
Wait'll I get to me.

Finally Rico blocks a blow! Both men grab each other's wrists! The Lawgiver FIRES wildly. Dredd and Rico carom off equipment, roll into -

306 DNA SECTION - NIGHT 306

they tumble in here with a CRASH. The Lawgiver flies onto a console. Dredd's bare feet SLIP and he loses balance - gets wedged between consoles! Rico grabs a chair, SMASHES it down on Dredd's already wounded shoulder! Dredd groans in agony! Rico SMASHES him again! Dredd catches the chair, pushes it away! Rico falls backwards!

307 DREDD 307

He's still pinned. He reaches out with his one free hand towards the Lawgiver!

308 RICO 308

On the floor, he sees this... grins.

RICO
Central! Prepare to take DNA sample!

9 RESUME DREDD 309

His fingertips have just reached the Lawgiver - and then the metal clamps swing up beneath his arm and trap it!

310 WIDER 310

battered, Rico slowly gets to his feet. Walks towards the Lawgiver. Dredd looks around for a friendly face... sees only the unemotional "eye" of... Central!

DREDD
Central! Central, help me!

RICO
(picking up the gun)
Explain it to him, Central.

CENTRAL
Certainly, Chief Justice Rico. Legally I have nothing to offer Escaped Convict Dredd but the possibility of Rehabilitation. Escaped Convict Dredd, have you ever thought of taking up a trade?

Enjoying this, Rico checks the Lawgiver, takes his time returning to Dredd.

DREDD
...Central?

CENTRAL
Many former Convicts have found lawful work in the well paid field of hi-technology.

DREDD
Central! He's going to destroy the entire Judge System! He's going to destroy Mega-City!

CENTRAL
It's never to late to better yourself, Ex Convict Dredd. Would you like to examine some technical manuals?

PAGES of technical data start running on Central's screens.

CUT TO:

1 ILSA AND HERSHEY 311

Ilsa falls, sliding on the slick floor. TILT up. Hershey, limping, comes towards her. Ilsa foot-sweeps her to the floor!

CUT TO:

312 RESUME DREDD AND RICO 312

Central is still helpfully running Tech manuals. But Dredd can only look at Rico, who comes ever closer.

RICO
Joseph Dredd. By the Authority vested in me... by me, I hereby Judge you. To the charge of betraying your best friend... GUILTY. To the charge of betraying your flesh... GUILTY.

DREDD
Central!

CENTRAL
The manuals for this particular bio station are of particular interest.

Rico steps up, leans over the helpless Dredd.

RICO
And finally... to the charge of being human when you could have been a God... GUILTY.

CENTRAL
You really should look at these manuals. They're very informative... Judge Dredd.

313 VERY CLOSE ON DREDD 313

Startled to hear "Judge", he turns, even as Rico raises the gun. Dredd looks at -

314 CENTRAL'S SCREEN - HIS POV 314

showing a BLINKING, ILLUMINATED COMPUTER GRAPHIC of the DNA work station... this workstation. FOCUS CHANGE.

The DNA sample drill is right above Rico's back!

315 DREDD - VERY CLOSE 315

His eyes shift - SEE

316 SCREEN - VERY CLOSE 316

The voice command phrase is blinking.

317 BACK TO SCENE 317

RICO
The sentence is... death!

His finger tightens on the trigger!

DREDD
Central! Take DNA sample - NOW!

Too late, Rico looks up -

318 NEW ANGLE 318

KA-CHUNK! The DNA spike slams down, impales Rico through the torso to the console!

319 DREDD 319

CHUNG. The metal bindings release. Dredd falls to the floor, sucks in fresh air.

CENTRAL
I thought you'd never catch on...

DREDD
You... helped me. You... broke the Law.

CENTRAL
(defensive)
Everyone else was doing it.

OFF-STAGE PUNCH. Ilsa comes flying in... knocked cold. Hershey follows.

CUT TO:

320 DREDD AND HERSHEY - AT THE PNEUMATIC DOOR 320

Ilsa, cuffed, is on the floor, unconscious. Hershey helps support Dredd. They look at each other. Dredd looks back in the lab. Raises his weapon. Speaks into it.

DREDD
Grenade.

He FIRES. BLAM! The incubators EXPLODE.

1 NEW ANGLE - LAB - WIDE 321

A CHAIN REACTION spreads through the lab. One by one, consoles and work stations ERUPT. The unborn clones SCREAM soundlessly as they burn.

322 PNEUMATIC DOOR 322

Weary, Dredd closes it.

DREDD
It's over.

HERSHEY
You saved Mega-City, Dredd. You're a hero.

DREDD
No. Just a Judge. I did my job.

He looks at Fergie's body.

DREDD(cont'd)
There's your hero.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVENLY HAVEN PARK - DAY 323

The park that was only a video promise at the start of the film. Now, the families that stroll through the greenery are real.

CAMERA discovers Dredd and Hershey. They're in civilian clothes... having a picnic. At peace, they're friends... and maybe more. Hershey passes Dredd an orange. He takes it, looks up.

324 NEW ANGLE 324

They're beneath a MONUMENT. We READ it:

HERMAN FERGUSON PARK

And as we TILT up to see the statue of Fergie, standing triumphant on a fallen ABC robot, we

FADE OUT.

THE END